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REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 17th February 1906.

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I.—Foreign Politics.

The Persian politics.

The *Roznama-i-Mukaddas Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 9th February has a long article on sea port towns and the navy, laying stress upon the fact that the ports of a country are its most vital possessions. The Europeans first take the ports of a country which they intend to conquer. When England, for instance, intended to conquer India, she at first possessed herself of the ports of Madras, Bombay and Calcutta, and after having firmly established herself in those places she set about to conquer the rest of the country. She adopted a similar policy in regard to Burma. The cause of the weakness of the Persians therefore must be their neglect of their sea ports.

Roznama-i-Mukaddas Hablul Mateen, Feb. 9th, 1906.

II.—Home Administration.

(a)—*Police.*

A meritorious act of a police head constable.

2. The *Al Punch* [Bankipore] of the 8th February congratulates the police Jemadar, Babu Govind Proshad, a head constable of Patna, for having arrested red handed some men who were adulterating ghee with the fat of pigs. The Jemadar Babu deserves a reward.

Al Punch, Feb. 8th, 1906.

Reorganization of the Calcutta Police.

3. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 8th February says that an official scheme for a reorganization of the Calcutta Police will soon be submitted to the Secretary of State for India. Under this scheme the higher posts in the Calcutta Police service will, most probably, be largely filled by recruitment in England, Indians being virtually excluded from them. The cost of the Calcutta Police will consequently increase. Now-a-days there appears everywhere an eagerness among the authorities to increase the number of Europeans in the public service. What policy is Lord Minto going to follow in the matter?

Sri Sri Vishnu-Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika, Feb. 8th, 1906.

The recent reported breach of the peace at Bow Bazar.

4. The same paper writes that Mr. Halliday concluded his interview on the question of the petition presented to him by Jogendra Nath Nandi, Surja Kumar Rai, and three others regarding the breach of the peace which occurred near Bow Bazar thana on the 31st January last, by saying that he left the charge of enquiry into the case in question in the hands of Superintendent Merriman. But can one expect any fresh light from Superintendent Merriman, who has already, along with Inspector Bramachari, supplied the version about the police being in no way connected with the affair? The police as a body will never admit their own guilt. These terrible outrages by the police are becoming too frequent in Calcutta. Sir A. Fraser's indifference in this matter is really mortifying and alarming.

Sri Sri Vishnu-Priya-o-Ananda-Bazar Patrika.

The reported breach of the peace at Bow Bazar.

5. The *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 8th February has the following:—

The Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, is a past master in the art of pretending ignorance. In the matter of the recent breach of the peace at Bow Bazar, he says that the aggrieved students were beaten by a dozen *feringis* because they had overturned a *gharry* containing the latter. He moreover says that the students went to hide themselves in a godown for fear of being beaten, but there also they were roughly handled by some *durwans*. The intelligence of the police authorities of Calcutta seems really infinite. But in wickedness they surpass everybody else in the world. What falsehoods did they not fabricate in order to get an innocent man hanged in the Shova Bazar murder case? But thanks to their stupidity, everything was disclosed and the plot fell through. Now comes the story of the overturning of a *feringi*-laden *gharry*. Everyone laughs over it. What was upset was not a *gharry*, but the wits of the police officers. Mr. Halliday says that he has inquired into the case, and that he remained a whole day in the Bow Bazar thana for the purpose. But he must have been thinking of nothing but beef and mutton, besides indulging in intoxicating drinks during all that time, or the enquiry would not have given birth to such a fantastic story as the above which only would be worthy of an opium-den. That notorious Superintendent, Mr. Merriman, is

Sandhya, Feb. 8th, 1906.

Mr. Halliday's right-hand. It was Mr. Merriman who first reported the story of the overturning of a *gharry*. Mr. Halliday's silliness is in keeping with Mr. Merriman's imprudence, or how could such a fantastic story find a place in an official report and be shamelessly promulgated by the former. No less than fifty or sixty men are even now ready to state that they saw with their own eyes that it was policemen who created the *fracas*. Were any of these eye-witnesses questioned by the police in regard to the matter, or was the report prepared by Mr. Merriman in the Chinamen's opium-den at Lall Bazar while Mr. Halliday was lording it over all at Bow Bazar ? To examine the above story: First, there is the *gharry* laden with twelve *feringis*. What a gigantic *gharry* it must have been! Secondly, that *gharry* was overturned. What horror! Thirdly, immediately the *gharry* was overturned the twelve *feringis* began an indiscriminate beating. Hands and feet were broken, and one man had to be sent to hospital. Fourthly, this *fracas* occurred in front of the police-station at Bow Bazar. Was the station police sleeping at the time of the occurrence? All this shows that the story of the overturning of a *gharry* is completely a got-up one. Now the question is, who are the fools who have got it up? It would not do for Mr. Halliday to pretend so much ignorance and good-natured faith in another's story. This is not the first time that such a case has occurred in Calcutta. Mr. Tahal Ram was wounded by *gundas* in broad day-light at College Square. Everyone understood that it was the work of the police. No inquiry was made, and the Commissioner of Police remained inactive, pretending ignorance. Then comes the case under discussion, and again the same pretended ignorance on Mr. Halliday's part. It now appears that people's lives are not safe under Mr. Halliday's rule. A great sensation has been created in the city. Many people are saying that they ought to form bands to save themselves from *feringi* and police oppression. Mr. Halliday's habitual pretending of ignorance as to the real state of things in many cases is thus going to give rise to a state of anarchy in the city.

SAMAY, Feb. 9th, 1906.

The recent breach of the peace at Bow Bazar in Calcutta.

6. The *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 9th February has the following, under the heading "Police *goondaism*," with reference to the late breach of the peace at Bow Bazar in Calcutta:—

Government are constantly getting angry at the conduct of their subjects. They complain that they are not trusted and loved unquestioningly by them. But they never pause to think how they are behaving towards their subjects. Do they ever try to do anything for which their subjects may revere and respect them? On the contrary, everyone, from the Viceroy down to the petty watchman, behaves most hatefully towards the subjects. We have seen the ex-Secretary of State (Mr. Brodrick), the ex-Viceroy (Lord Curzon), the Lieutenant-Governors (Sir A. Fraser and Sir B. Fuller), Secretaries like Risley, Lyon and Carlyle, Magistrates and Subdivisional Officers like Emerson, Clarke, Jack, Briscoe, and Marr, the Commissioner of Police and the Superintendents of Police, the Police and the Military—and all are selfish, all are oppressive towards others and ill-wishers of the subjects.

To recall the manner in which the police oppressed certain students on their way back from the Town Hall Meeting on the 31st January last fills one with the strongest feelings of resentment, shame and grief. The manner in which the police and other officials are acting with the object of suppressing the *Swadeshi* agitation and the national strength of the Indian people is one perhaps which would be undreamt of even in an uncivilised and barbarous State. As Nero felt great pleasure in setting fire to the houses of his people, as Nadir Shah saw with joy the streams of blood flowing from the dead bodies of the thousands he had slaughtered at Delhi, so our police and Gurkha soldiery feel the height of pleasure in using the *lathi* over the bodies of inoffensive people. Of course they have acted and are acting in this manner with the assent of the authorities.

We trust Sir Andrew Fraser will get this case inquired into by a competent Commission and bring the offenders to justice. If he does not, we shall conclude that there is no longer left in this country any dignity of the law, nor any seat of justice, and that the officials have left the task of self-defence in the hands of the citizens themselves.

The police are supposed to be kept up for preserving the peace. Is this evidence of keeping the peace? If it be the desire of the authorities to oppress the people, why not let them put a summary end to all their miseries by blowing them off from the cannon's mouth? The country is being submerged under a very wave of anarchy—who will rescue us from this misfortune? Even the comfort of weeping is denied us.

7. Referring to the same subject the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 9th February writes as follows:— DAILY HITAVADI, Feb 9th, 1906.

The reported breach of the peace at Bow Bazar.

If Mr. Halliday's story that the students and other people were beaten by 12 Europeans be true, why did not the police arrest the white offenders or even interfere with their lawless proceedings? Does Mr. Halliday consider it as redounding to the glory of the Calcutta police that a number of Europeans not exceeding a dozen were able to commit a serious breach of the peace in the city and escape unscathed? Did the police take down the names of the owners and the numbers of the carriages which carried those 12 white men? If not, why not? The wounds received by Babu Jogendra Lal and some others in the affray were so serious as might even prove fatal. If the durwans of a neighbouring godown were guilty of beating the students, why did not the Bow Bazar police arrest them? Did Mr. Halliday enquire what the shopkeepers near the Bow Bazar thana had to say about the occurrence? How does he account for the use of policemen's belts, batons and *lathis* by the durwans and other offenders? In his interview on the subject with the Commissioner of Police, Babu Kali Charan Palit rightly said that if the course of police oppression in the city were not checked there was every possibility of the occurrence of a fearful disturbance of the public peace. The conduct of the Calcutta police at Sham Bazar a few days ago and at Bow Bazar quite recently had led the public to simply hate it.

8. With reference to the same subject the *Ratnakar* [Asansol] of the 10th February notices a rumour that it is intended to bring a law-suit against the police officers alleged to be implicated in this case, and in connexion with this rumour, suggests that the result of such a law-suit is a foregone conclusion, and that other means of redress, if available, should be at once resorted to. RATNAKAR, Feb. 10th, 1906.

The recent reported breach of the peace at Bow Bazar.

9. Referring to the same subject the *Hitvarta* [Calcutta] of the 11th February writes under the heading "Anarchy in the Metropolis":—The people living in the neighbourhood of the thana are quite alarmed to see such oppression perpetrated by the police. Such anarchy was never heard of before. In spite of thousands of respectable men being eye-witnesses of the occurrence, the police deny all knowledge of it. The police should however bear in mind that there are many ruffians in Calcutta to avenge the wrong if they use their *lathis* in this stealthy way. The people will only follow the example which the police will set. We are bringing the matter to the notice of the authorities in due time. We warn the authorities in time that if they fail to take steps in the matter, the people will soon take the law into their own hands. The leaders have checked the irritated people from committing anything unlawful. If the police will behave like ruffians, the people will be compelled to take steps to prevent mischief, and in that case the police alone will be responsible for any disturbance of the public peace. HITVARTA, Feb. 11th, 1906.

The recent reported breach of the peace at Bow Bazar.

Cowardly people say that the public will be oppressed in this way, but they must know that it will also give rise to a conflagration which it will be difficult to put down. The authorities should therefore take note before it is too late.

10. Referring to the same subject the *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 13th February says that Mr. Halliday's slowness in taking steps in the matter is really astonishing. If the case was really owing to some men having overturned a *garry*, they ought to be punished. But Mr. Halliday does not appear to be willing to bestir himself in the matter. This is what is excites suspicion in men's minds. It is not a very difficult thing to create a *fracas* in a street after extinguishing the SANDHYA, Feb. 13th, 1906.

The reported breach of the peace at Bow Bazar.

street-light. And *gundas* and *budmashes* are sure to bring about a deplorable state of things in Calcutta if they know that the town-police is indifferent to such occurrences. Mr. Halliday is mistaken if he thinks that the *Swadeshi* movement can be checked by any such thrusts in the dark. Inactivity on the part of the police in such matters will only teach people to take the law into their own hands and thus give rise to a state of anarchy in the City.

DAILY HITAVADI, Feb. 11th 1906.

The punitive police at Banaripara.

11. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 11th February refers to a petition to the District Magistrate of Backerganj by one Babu Mathuranath Bose, an inhabitant of Banaripara, in which the petitioner accuses the local Sub-Inspector of Police of having put his property under distraint and otherwise harassing him, on the plea of non-payment of his share of the punitive police-tax, although as a matter of fact he had sent in his dues before the last permissible day (the 31st January) by money-order, having preferred this means of remittance because in the case of payments in person, the sub-Inspector was not giving any receipts for the moneys paid in.

Commenting on the facts disclosed in the above petition, the paper calls on the District Magistrate of Backerganj to state under what authority the police officer in question refuses to grant acknowledgments of money paid in to him.

The paper concludes by commending the above petition to the careful notice of the District Magistrate and putting in an appeal for the withdrawal of the punitive police from Banaripara the inhabitants of which, in its opinion, are too poor to bear the cost of it, and who, therefore, will have to be mostly ejected from their houses if payment of the punitive police charges is rigidly insisted on.

HITVARTA, Feb. 11th, 1906.

The Chitpur riot case.

12. The *Hitvarta* [Calcutta] of the 11th February ascribes the last quarrel between the Hindus and Musalmans at Chitpur during the last *Bakrid* to the instigation of the police, and says that some innocent Musalmans received blows from the Police, when the Deputy Commissioner of Police was himself present on the spot.

HINDI BANGAVASI, Feb. 12th, 1906.

Horrible events.

13. The *Hindi Bangbasi* [Calcutta] of the 12th February describes the last Chitpur riots as reported by its correspondent in an article headed "Horrible events" in course of which it is stated that there was not a single cow slaughter in many of the mosques in Chitpur. The people there earn their livelihood by making glass bang es. They have not only no quarrels with the Hindus but they are very sorry for the riots that occurred there on Monday last.

HINDI BANGAVASI,

The Allahabad Fair.

14. Referring to the casualties in the last Kumbh Fair at Allahabad a correspondent of the same paper asks "who is responsible for these deaths? and then answers that if truth is to be told surely the deaths were due to the batons of the Police, a free use of which confused the people who rushed on one another with the result that the weak were trampled to death by the overwhelming crowd.

DAILY HITAVADI, Feb. 13th, 1906.

Target-practice from Fort Chingrikhali.

15. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 13th February calls upon Government to inquire into the case of the inhabitants of 19 villages (Ariakhali, Fakir chak, Anarnagar, &c.,) in the thana of Sutahata in Midnapore, who, as the result of petitions on the subject, obtained an order that, as these villages were situate beyond a range of 8,000 yards, they were not to vacate their dwellings during the period (19th to 25th February next) when target-shooting from Fort Chingrikhali would be practised; but, who, in spite of this order, are being pressed by the police to vacate their homesteads, the police evidently sticking to the old idea of a zone extending to 10,000 yards.

NIHAR, Feb. 16th, 1906.

In praise of a police officer.

16. The *Nihar* [Contai] of the 16th February writes of Babu Kunja Bihari Mukerji, Inspector of Police at Contai, under orders of transfer to Howrah, as a high-minded, amiable, just and dutiful man, the like of whom is rarely to be met with in the police force.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

17. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 18th January says that a serious miscarriage of justice has occurred in the case against Babus Nabin Chandra Das and Mahendra Chandra Das, pleaders and inhabitants of Bhola, in the Backerganj district, in which Mr. Vas, Assistant Magistrate, has sentenced the accused to undergo rigorous imprisonment and pay fines. Sir Bampfylde Fuller and Company are the manufacturers of the sort of justice which Messrs. Vas, Jack and Emerson are dealing out to the people of the country. The latter are, therefore, not the only party to blame in the matter.

SRI SRI VISHNU-PRIYA-O-ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA, Jan. 18th, 1906.

The Bhola case.

18. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 7th February inquires why, in the face of a standing order of the High Court fixing the hours of Court business from 11 to 5, the presiding officers of the Courts at Midnapore detain plaintiffs, defendants and witnesses after 5 P.M. almost every day of the week.

MEDINI BANDHAV, Feb. 7th, 1906.

A complaint from Midnapore.

19. Referring to the sequel of the hearing of the Rangpur special constables' case by the Chief Justice, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 9th February writes :—

HITAVADI, Feb. 9th, 1906.

The Rangpur special constables' case before the Chief Justice.

The real point at issue, viz., whether the Magistrate's order was illegal or not, has not been decided upon. Our feelings are therefore equally mingled ones of satisfaction at the release of the constables and of despair that we have obtained no decision on the real question at issue. We are ready to admit, with the Chief Justice and with Justices Stephen and Brett, that the Magistrate was actuated by no malice. But are that officer's orders to the special constables to learn drill, to *salaam Jemadars* and to parade the streets with belt and baton, indicative of an excess of good-will on his part towards them?

The Counsel on the Government side, the Advocate-General himself, felt compelled to admit that he would not support these orders. And yet we find three judges firmly declaring that the Magistrate acted without malice. May we inquire, with all respect, on what evidence this opinion of the judges is based? Was the dignity of the law relating to the appointment of special constables maintained by the Magistrate?

In spite of all that the High Court Judges may declare, the public will never believe that the Magistrate was only actuated by a desire to preserve the public peace. We would have been happy if, following the example of Sir Lawrence Jenkins in the Bombay High Court in the Tilak case, Sir Francis Maclean had kept the dignity of the High Court unimpaired by delivering plain judgment without offering any suggestion of any kind to Government. The decision which has been come to in the present case, cannot be pleasing to the public, because while it does not preserve the prestige of Government, it equally prevents the victims of persecution from seeking damages through the Civil Courts.

20. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 12th February writes as follows in English :—

DACCA GAZETTE, Feb. 12th, 1906.

The Rangpur special constables' case.

The curtain has at last fallen over the Rangpur drama. The Special Constables' case of Rangpur was dragging its slow length all this while at the Calcutta High Court. The case was heard before a Bench presided over by the Hon'ble Justices Brett and Stephen. But the two judges disagreed in the verdict, and so the case came to be heard by the Chief Justice. The Chief Justice, in the course of the hearing of the case, threw out a hint to the Advocate-General who appeared for the Crown, if the case could not be withdrawn, inasmuch as the special constables have all been discharged as there existed no further necessity for their services. The Government took the hint and withdrew the case. So far so good. If it were a case between two private parties, we would have nothing to say.

It was a case where a great principle was at stake. It was a case of Judicial *versus* Executive. It will be remembered that Sir Bampfylde Fuller boastingly proclaimed that he was acting in his executive capacity and no redress against these orders could be had from the High Court. The Rangpur special constables' case was made a test case, and as such it would have been

better if the point were decided once for all either way. The one great function of the High Court is to give authoritative interpretation to the knotty points of law. By the part which the Hon'ble Chief Justice has been pleased to play, a great opportunity for clear and concise declaration of the executive powers of our Governors has been lost. Nothing is further from our mind than to insinuate that the Chief Justice has adopted this unusual course simply to avoid an unpleasant duty.

It seemed clear from what fell from His Lordship's lips in the course of the counsel's arguments, that the case for the Government was not very strong. Be that as it may, we think we have missed a great opportunity which will not offer itself very soon. Considering how matters are proceeding in the new Province, nothing was more desirable than to have an authoritative declaration on the point. But, as fate would have it, the point has been left where it stood—as ambiguous as ever. And the executive authorities of the land are sure to take the fullest advantage of this ambiguity in future as they have done in the past. Under the circumstances, we cannot say that the High Court has done full justice to its duties by leaving the point which has proved such a veritable bone of contention between the people and their governors undecided. What more need we say?

KHULNAVASI, Feb. 10th, 1906

Mr. B. C. Mittra, District Judge of Khulna and Jessore.

21. The *Khulnavasi* [Khulna] of the 10th February writes in the highest terms of the manner in which Mr. B. C. Mittra, lately District Judge of Jessore and Khulna, discharged his duties; and refers to a farewell address and an evening party which were got up by the local Bar Library in his honour on the eve of his departure from the district.

HITVARTA, Feb. 11th, 1906.

The vacancies in the High Court of Calcutta.

22. The *Hitvarta* [Calcutta] of the 11th February prays that a competent Musalman may be appointed to one of the Judgeships shortly to fall vacant in the Calcutta High Court. As for the post of the Chief Justice, the paper says that the appointment of Justice Sale to it would be attributed by the people to a feeling of partiality for one's own race on the part of the Government.

The Government would be buying a bad name by appointing any but the Hon'ble Chandra Madhab Ghose to that post.

(*d*)—*Education.*

SANJIVANI, Feb. 8th, 1906.

Examinerships in the Calcutta University.

23. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 8th February reports that the Syndicate of the Calcutta University have adopted a resolution embodying the principle not to appoint as Examiners gentlemen who are known to them to be authors of such "keys," "guide-books," "notes," "companions," "commentaries," or other such books as encourage vicious methods of study and discourage sound methods of teaching, and suggests that this principle of exclusion should be extended to all those professors who burden both the minds and bodies of their students by dictating to them voluminous "notes."

BANGAVASI, Feb. 10th, 1906.

A text-book appointed for the vernacular examinations.

24. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 10th February writes as follows:—

A good deal has recently been written in this paper regarding school text-books. But, unfortunately, no notice has been taken of those writings. In September last the Director of Public Instruction appointed *A Reader for Middle Classes in Bengal* as a text-book for the vernacular examinations, throughout Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. The book has been written by one Mr. Marsden and Mr. M. M. Basu, and published by Messrs. Macmillan and Company. The very title of the book is wrong; for it ought to have run *A Reader for Middle Class Schools in Bengal*, and not as it stands. The expression "charity and the love of learning" in the note at the beginning of the book is incorrect. There ought to have been no 'the' before 'love.'

It is impossible to count up all the inaccuracies of language and other errors occurring in the book. We shall point out only a few of them:—

(1) "The next morning, after he had eaten his breakfast and was just going to school with his books under his arm, etc."—Lesson I.

Where is the nominative of 'was going'? If 'he' be made the nominative, the construction would be 'after he was just going to school.'

The title of this lesson ought not to have been "Against Bad Language," as it is, but "How to Learn Bad Language."

(2) "An adjective is a word which always goes with some noun and says of what kind it is."—Lesson VI.

Does an adjective 'say of what kind a noun is,' that is, whether it is proper, common, etc.?

(3) It is impossible to say what the authors mean by "what are you thinking about to come to me, and to stand there and ask me how I am getting on?"—Lesson IX, headed 'The Fox and the Cat?'

(4) "I can spring up into a tree"—*Ibid.*

Is not the use of 'into' in the passage incorrect and unidiomatic?

(5) "Two men were travelling along through a jungle."—Lesson XIII.

Is not the word "along' superfluous here?

Again, "The fox, who could not poke his head into it, etc."—Lesson XXIII.

The word 'poke' is not appropriately used, and it is more a slang than a word fit to be used in a school book.

(6) "There is no use of depending on others."—Lesson XVII.

Is not the use of 'of' unidiomatic here?

(7) "Straw is put on the roofs of houses to keep off the sun and rain."—Lesson XXVII.

This is not good English. It would have been better to write 'houses are thatched with straw to keep off the sun and rain.'

(8) "See, the cart is covered with straw."—Lesson XXVII.

This passage refers to the picture of a cart laden with straw. It ought, therefore, to have run as follows:—

'See, the cart is loaded with straw.'

(9) "The hare was once boasting of his speed before all the other animals."—Lesson XXIX.

"The hare" means the whole species of the animal known by that name. What the authors ought to have written is 'a hare.'

Again, "all the other animals" certainly include the lion and the tiger' but as any presence of these beasts of prey would be unnatural, the word, all; ought to have been omitted.

(10) "In four years he had made very great improvements."—Lesson XLVII.

The use of the pluperfect tense here is incorrect, because it was not necessary.

"Just before this he had been given the title of Sir Salar Jung."—XLVII.

We knew 'Sir Salar Jung' to be the name of a person, but, thanks to the authors of this book, we now learn that 'Sir Salar Jung' is a title.

(11) In the following two passages in Lesson L, namely, "Iswar had to buy the food for the family, which included his father, himself and two younger brothers, etc.," and "for the rest of his life he supported himself, his family and his parents by writing books,"—the word 'family' has evidently different meanings attached to it. In the first case 'the family' included Iswar himself, his father and two younger brothers; but in the second case it does not include himself and his father.

Again, what the authors mean by 'Iswar had to buy the food for the family' is 'Iswar had to do the marketting for the family.' In the sentence "He went to bed at 10 o'clock, and his father, who had to work himself till 12 o'clock at night, used then to wake him," which occurs in the same Lesson, the use of the word 'himself' is an inexcusable mistake.

In the passage "Many a poor boy's fee did he pay himself and gave him his books as well" in the same Lesson, the use of the singular 'him' for 'many a poor boy' is a gross grammatical error. The use of the pronoun 'his' is also incorrect.

In the sentence "But the Principal gently put the old man back in his chair again" in the same Lesson, the use of the word "again" is unnecessary, and therefore incorrect.

(12) "The lion can walk along through the jungle without making any noise."—Lesson LX.

The word 'along' is unnecessary here also.

(13) "It (the tea-plant) has a little white flower, something like a jessamine flower, but does not smell so sweet."—Lesson LXXXII.

Where is the nominative to 'does not smell'?

In the same lesson "the tea is then ready for use." 'Then'—when?

In the same lesson "the tea must not be boiled over a fire." The 'the' is unnecessary here.

In the same lesson "and the tea should not be allowed to soak in the boiling water more than a few minutes." Here, too, the use of 'the' before 'tea' is unnecessary. Again, in making tea, the 'soaking of the tea in water' is not an important thing; it is the coming out of the substance of the tea into the water which is the important point, and in order to draw attention to this, the proper word to use is 'remain' and not 'soak.'

(14) "They (ships) float on the top of the water."—Lesson XCV.

Why not simply 'float on the water'?

Again, "They have to carry coals to feed the fire which makes water into steam for them to use"—*Ibid.*

What a beautiful and nicely-constructed sentence! Is not 'coals' unidiomatic?

(15 "In many parts of the sea there are dangerous rocks which come up close to the top of the water."—Lesson CI.

Why 'come up close' and not 'come close up,'? Why 'top of the water' and not 'surface of the water'?

(16) "If a piece of ice be put into water, it will float on the top of it."—Lesson CIV.

What the authors meant probably was—'If a piece of ice be dipped into water, it will at once rise to the surface.' The authors seem extremely fond of the word 'top.' For instance, in the same lesson "the tops of all the small rivers and tanks become ice and are quite hard."

(17) "A large number of elephants, sometimes twenty, sometimes fifty, sometimes a hundred elephants and two or three hundred men walk through a jungle, with sticks, making a great noise, and beating drums and letting off rockets. The tiger hears them coming and goes away. But in front there are more men and elephants."—Lesson CVII.

How correct in point of composition and how lucid in point of description!

(18) "An ordinary carriage is drawn by a horse or by a bullock. But a railway carriage is not drawn by any living animal."—Lesson CIX.

Is a railway carriage, then, drawn by a 'dead animal'?

Again, "In front there is the steam-engine, then there is a carriage filled with coal to put into the steam-engine to make the fire burn. Then there is a long line of carriages, etc."—*Ibid.*

Why 'In front' and not 'first'? Look at the simple and lucid composition of "filled with coal to put into the steam-engine to make the fire burn."

(19) "There are better steam-engines in England than in any country in the world."—Lesson CXI.

Is, then, England a country outside the world?

BHARAT MITRA, Feb. 10th, 1906.

A novel cure.

25. Referring to the letter of Mr. Stapleton, Inspector of Schools, Dacca Division, addressed to the Head Master of the Kishoreganj High School, in which he was asked to make each of his boys write out 500 times the words 'I would not waste my time in shouting *Bande Mataram*, as an exercise of penmanship' the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 10th February compares the conduct of Mr. Stapleton and the Europeans annoyed at the cry of *Bande Mataram* to that of the mothers of this country who, when they suspect their infants to be possessed by evil spirits, run to some magician for an amulet. Mr. Stapleton has played the *role* of the magician in this case, and is going to use the large number of copies of the above mystic words in curing those Europeans who startle at the cry of the words *Bande Mataram*. An amulet containing a copy hung round the neck or tied to the arm will make the ears of the person wearing it impervious to the sound of the above words. Those wanting a radical cure will have to dissolve the paper containing the words in water, and drink the solution off.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

A dispute about certain thoroughfares at Berhampur.

MURSHIDABAD HITAISHI, Feb. 7th, 1906.

26. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 7th February complains that for some days past the thoroughfares to the west, north and south of the Berhampur Square Field have been treated as closed to ordinary vehicular traffic, presumably under the orders of the District Magistrate, who, however, has not yet replied to official inquiries on the point from the Vice-Chairman of the Local Municipality, which pays for the up-keep of the thoroughfares in question. It appears that on a former occasion, while Babu Baikunth Nath Sen was Chairman, it was decided that the Municipality possessed complete rights over the Square Field and the thoroughfares on its sides, and that the Magistrate had no authority over them.

The Sanitary Board for Eastern Bengal and Assam.

SRI SRI VISHNU-PRIYA-O-ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA, Feb. 8th, 1906.

27. Referring to the creation of a Sanitary Board for Eastern Bengal and Assam, the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 8th February says that it has no hope that the sanitation of the province generally will be improved under the auspices of this Board. The truth is that Civilians generally are under a panic about the bad climate of Eastern Bengal, and hence all the tax-payers' money, and all the energies of the new Board will be devoted to converting the quarters for the Europeans into so many abodes of sanitation, so to speak.

The small-pox ward of Chittagong Hospital.

JYOTI, Feb. 8th, 1906.

28. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 8th February points out that the location of the small-pox ward of the local hospital at the topmost part of a hill carries a risk of infection of the whole surrounding atmosphere, and specially of the atmosphere of Rahamatganj, Dewanbazar, Ghâtfaradbeg and other places inhabited by respectable people, when the southerly breeze begins to prevail, as it will soon do. The level ground to the east of the hospital is suggested as a less dangerous site, where the ward should be removed early.

Cholera in Birbhum.

RATNAKAR, Feb 10th, 1906.

29. The *Ratnakar* [Asansol] of the 10th February reports the prevalence of cholera in the village of Ilambazar and its neighbourhood in the district of Birbhum. Forty to fifty deaths have already occurred. Qualified medical assistance is not locally available and should be supplied by the District Magistrate.

Cholera in a village in Nadia.

NADIA, Feb. 10th, 1906.

30. The *Nadia* [Krishnagar] of the 10th February reports the outbreak of an epidemic of cholera in the flourishing village of Muragacha in that district.

Mr. Allen's refusal of permission for the use of the Calcutta Town Hall.

DAILY HITAVADI. Feb. 13th, 1906.

31. With reference to the proposal to award medals, lockets and similar testimonials of honour through the hands of Babu Surendranath Banerji to those "devotees of their own country" who have been "persecuted and harassed" by Government, the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 13th February writes that Babu Surendranath Banerji asked the permission of the Chairman of the Corporation for the use of the Town Hall for the purpose of this presentation. The permission was at first given but has since been withdrawn. After condemning Mr. Allen's conduct in the present instance as discourteous, and as one which is sure to be debated at a meeting of the Corporation, the paper concludes with the announcement that the presentation in question will be made at No. 91, Harrison Road, the Grand Theatre premises, on the 14th February next.

The use of the Town Hall for a public meeting refused.

SANDHYA, Feb. 13th, 1906.

32. The *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 13th February says that in revoking his sanction to use the Town Hall for the purpose of holding a meeting to express sympathy with the sufferers in the cause of *Swadeshi*, Mr. Allen, the Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation, pretends that at first he did not clearly understand the object of the meeting. It was surely Mr. Carlyle who made him understand the matter rightly. Is the Town Hall, asks the writer, Mr. Allen's paternal inheritance? Is it not public property?

Cholera in Midnapore.

NIHAR, Feb. 16th, 1906.

33. The *Nihar* [Contai] of the 16th February dwells on the prevalence of cholera in a severe form in different parts of Midnapore.

(g)—Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.

PRATINIDHI, Jan. 31st, 1906.

A Railway complaint.

34. The *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 31st January draws attention to the necessity of sanctioning a second booking clerk for the Comilla Railway Station to assist the single clerk who is now in charge and who, judging from the experience of a correspondent whose letter is also published, cannot be expected to attend with uniform regularity both at day and at night when four trains pass through this station.

SWADES-SAMPAD, Feb. 5th, 1906.

The Mymensingh-Netrakona Railway survey.

35. After referring to the various surveys that have been undertaken in connection with the route of the proposed Mymensingh-Netrakona Railway, a correspondent of the *Swades-Sampad* [Mymensingh] of the 5th February goes on to express approval of the alignment which is said to have been recommended to Government for sanction by the surveyors in charge. This avoids Syamganj and proceeds *viâ* Gouripur, Kalipur and Lugmiganj. It is pointed out that this route would serve a larger number of zamindars, talukdars, *mahajans* and educated people than the Syamganj route. The correspondent concludes by insisting on the necessity of an early construction of the line, in view of the fact that the old water-routes for trade have almost all been made useless by the late earthquake.

(h)—General.

'SAMAY, Feb. 9th, 1906.

A recent action of the District Officer of Jalpaiguri.

36. Referring to a report which it has received about the recent refusal by the District Officer of Jalpaiguri, to permit the local school-boys accompanying, in procession, the image of the Goddess Saraswati while it was being taken to be thrown into the water, the *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 9th February writes:—

This incident seems to us to be impossible even in a dream and impossible under civilised British rule. A shiver is passing through everybody who hears of it. Everybody exclaims—Alas! what is this that has happened! The throwing of a god into the water is not an ordinary temporal affair; it is part of religion and of worship. This affair has created as much alarm among Hindus generally as among the public of Jalpaiguri. We request Lord Minto to see how the people are being oppressed and how the proclamation of the late Queen is being violated in Sir B. Fuller's domains. Does his Lordship think that there is any necessity for even this sort of tyranny?

The oppressions of ordinary Anglo-Indians are daily on the increase along with those of the officials. Now-a-days every European and *feringhi* resident in India looks upon Indians like so many dogs and jackals. Not content with hating to sit and work in company with the Indians, he does not hesitate even to assault them. India and Indians he looks upon as means to minister to his pleasure. To bruise the very bones of the god-fearing, peaceful Indian is reckoned by him a fun. If the Indians could, like Westerners, return blow for blow, slap for slap, oppression for repression, then oppressive Europeans and *feringhis* would partially have come to their senses. But instead they seek the help of the Courts. And Anglo-Indians know full well of the farce which passes for a trial at the Courts. That is why the outrages of these brutes are daily on the increase.

DAILY HITAVADI, Feb. 9th, 1906.

The prospects of salt manufacture in Bengal.

37. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 9th February writes as follows:—

The National Chamber of Commerce, the Landholders' Association, the Indian Association and other public bodies in Bengal should apply to the Government for permission to manufacture salt in the country. Fraserganj may afford a good site for a salt manufactory. There are 66 such manufactories in the Madras Presidency. The cost of preparing salt in Madras and carrying it thence to Calcutta is as follows:—

Cost of manufacture	...	...	6 pice per maund.
Freight	...	...	6 „ „
Other charges	...	...	4 „ „
Total		...	4 annas per maund.

A hundred maunds would thus cost Rs. 25. But this hundred maunds would sell in the Calcuttta market at not less than Rs. 35, giving a net profit of at least Rs. 10. Bengal consumes 170 lakhs of maunds of salt every year. The amount of profit computed in the above way on this vast quantity would be 17 lakhs of rupees. And if the manufacture of this quantity requires a capital outlay of 50 lakhs of rupees, a dividend of 30 per cent. per annum will be secured.

The cost of preparing salt in Bengal would be as follows:—

Cost of manufacture	...	6 pice per maund.
Freight	...	3 „ „
Other charges	...	3 „ „
Total	...	3 annas per maund.

A hundred maunds would thus cost Rs. 18-12, but as it would sell at Rs. 35, it would bring a net profit of Rs. 16-4. A dividend of more than 50 per cent. per annum can thus be secured on a capital outlay of 50 lakhs of rupees. Anyhow the first and second methods indicated above cannot fail to bring a dividend of at least 17 and 25 per cent. per annum, respectively.

Bangavasi, Feb. 10th, 1906.

Government's arguments for partition examined.

38. In continuation of his previous article [Report on Native Papers for 10th February—paragraph 48], the 'expert' correspondent of the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 10th February says that in his Mymensingh speech Lord Curzon spoke as follows in support of his plea of distance in connection with the partition question:—

"You profess to be thoroughly satisfied with the administration of Bengal. This is a discovery which it appears to me, as a careful student of your papers, that you have only quite recently made, and yet under that administration the whole of the Mymensingh district, with a population of close upon four millions of persons, has been left with a single British Executive Officer, the Collector of this place. Orissa contains approximately the same number of inhabitants in British territory; but Orissa possesses one Commissioner, three Collectors, and other officers in proportion. The Chittagong Division is only a little more populous and is equipped on the same scale as Orissa. Do you mean to tell me that this is a satisfactory state of affairs? Do you suppose it would have been tolerated for all these years had you possessed a local Government at Dacca instead of in remote Calcutta and Darjeeling?"

His Lordship meant that the subdivision of Mymensingh failed to be carried out, and its administrative machinery improved simply because it was so distant from Calcutta, the seat of the Lieutenant-Governor. If so, why has not the Midnapore district, which is almost as large and populous as Mymensingh, but which is much nearer Calcutta, and can therefore sooner draw the Lieutenant-Governor's notice, been as yet subdivided? Besides, if the administrative machinery of the Mymensingh district was imperfect, why did not the local officers, namely, the Commissioner and the Magistrate, draw the Lieutenant-Governor's attention to the fact? The question of subdividing Mymensingh into two districts had come up long before the partition of Bengal. Would any one believe that the proposal could not be carried out, because the Lieutenant-Governor was such a long way off as in Calcutta?

Another plea for partition is given, in paragraph 12 of the Partition Resolution, as follows:—

"The result is the creation of a new province founded upon that which is the secret of all good administration, namely, the close contact—in so far as this is possible in areas of great size—of the Governors with the governed."

One, however, fails to see what obstacle stood in the way of the "close contact," made so much of by Lord Curzon, under the old administration? If there was any obstacle, it was certainly not the distance of the seat of the Lieutenant-Governor, but the unwillingness of the officials themselves to mix with the people. That is a trait in the English character, and was no fault of the administrative system. The Lieutenant-Governor may be far removed, but do Magistrates and Commissioners take any opportunity during their tours to mix with the people? The Lieutenant-Governor himself often goes out on tour; and does he take any opportunity of these tours to establish close relations with the people?

In carrying out the partition, Government has not done everything above board. It published the official opinions which were in favour of partition, but it suppressed those which were against it. Information asked for in the Bengal Council was also refused. This attempt at secrecy has aroused suspicion in the minds of all, both natives and Europeans. It is natural, therefore, that the agitation against the measure has gone on unabated.

Another plea for partition, urged by the Government, is that the measure will improve the material and economical condition of the separated province. Speaking on this subject, the first Lieutenant-Governor of Eastern Bengal and Assam said:—

"You are all full of hope that the turning day of your fortunes has come. I earnestly trust that these hopes may be realized and you may be assured that the new Government will take a pride in its seaport and will spare no efforts to contribute to its growth and prosperity. Chittagong will have to pay a price for its development. The approach to the town and the surroundings of the harbour are charmingly picturesque, and commerce will demand greater sacrifices here than at your sister port of Karachi. Yet we must look forward unflinchingly to the day when green banks will give way to lines of jetties, pontoons and warehouses, and when the foliage which now adorns the harbour front will be replaced by a bristling fringe of masts, funnels, and steam cranes."

What these words of Sir Bampfylde Fuller's mean is that the partition has been a triumph for the British merchants and will greatly enrich them. As for the Hindus and Musalmans of Eastern Bengal, they will remain almost in the same condition as before.

The partition may, no doubt, here and there improve the administrative machinery. But will not such improvement be too dearly purchased by the setting up of two Provincial Governments? Much greater improvements might have been effected at a much smaller cost and over the whole of Bengal, if the two provinces had been kept under one local Government.

After all, it is clear that the partition has been effected solely for the benefit of the Civil Service and of the British merchants.

DAILY HITAVADI, Feb. 10th, 1906.

The duty on imported clothings.

39. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 10th February writes as follows:—

When both England and India are under the rule of the same sovereign, and when the Government of India is under the British Government, it is not logical to consider the one Government as something quite distinct from the other. But when the authorities in England became determined to destroy the weaving industry of India, it was hard to believe that both the countries were ruled by the same sovereign? And as a matter of fact the British Government at that time acted as a most dangerous enemy to the Government of India. No one could then believe that close relationship existed between the two countries, the inhabitants of one of which were being ruined to promote the interest of the other. But when the work of the destruction of the weaving industry of India was completed, the authorities began to preach to us that the interests of both England and India being identical we could freely use *belati* cloths because *belati* weavers were our brethren, both being subjects of the same sovereign. What disinterested advice!

The weavers of our country have been ruined on the plea of free trade. And now our tailors are going to be ruined by a reduction in the duty on imported clothings. It is in the interest of the tailors in England that Government is trying to get the prices of imported clothings lowered. The Government of India pleads exigencies of revenue whenever any proposal is made to effect any considerable reduction of the salt-tax, but would not a reduction in the duty on imported clothings also cause loss of revenue? It is the misfortune of the Indians that their Government consider it their duty to sacrifice the interest of the country in order to promote the interest of *belati* tradesmen and merchants.

[BHARAT MITRA, Feb. 10th, 1906.

"Vanity going before a fall."

40. Commenting on the recent resolution of the Government of India withdrawing the disabilities imposed on the *Statesman* for publishing some State papers only a week before, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 10th February says:—The vanity of the Government broke down even before a week had expired.

The *Hitvarta* [Calcutta] of the 11th February alludes to the above and says Government has behaved in this matter like a child who has in a fit of anger refused to take food but soon after becomes hungry and is ready to fall to his meals on the slightest hint from his parents.

The *Statesman* said nothing new, but the Government too readily accepted the explanation offered by that paper and withdrew its orders.

HITVARTA, Feb. 11th, 1906.

The successor of the Hon'ble Mr. Hewett.

41. The *Hitvarta* [Calcutta] of the 11th February has heard that the successor of the Hon'ble Mr. Hewett as Commercial Member of the Viceroy's Council will be brought from England instead of being selected from the Indian Civil Service.

HINDI BANGAVASI, Feb. 12th, 1906.

Viceregal tour.

42. Referring to the Viceroy's tour in Bihar, the *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 12th February says:—It is rumoured that Bihar will be separated from Bengal, but some say that the Central Provinces, Orissa and the Benares Division will be added to Bihar which will then form a new province.

SANDHYA Feb. 12th, 1906.

"A bond of servitude" for Government employés.

43. The *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 12th February writes that in view of the present vogue of the *Swadeshi* agitation, Government has made all its native employés sign a bond of servitude pledging themselves not to join any political meetings or to subscribe to any *Swadeshi* movement. But what is the use of service if even in the spending of the small sum earned by so much drudgery, one is to be guided by the wishes of one's European employers? It is impossible to say whether there can be anything more undesirable than service with such a halter round the neck. By what rule is one who is in Government service to be debarred from joining in the *Swadeshi* agitation? One surely does not barter one's soul for the bread one earns. If the Government does anything improper, and if one's countrymen protest against it as befits men, is not one even so much as to peep into such a protest meeting? Will not the Government permit one to act on one's own judgment? Even when one is a slave of Government, if one feels that a boycott against foreign goods would benefit the indigenous industries, is not one to assist in this boycott because he is in service under Government? If one discharges correctly the duties one is entrusted with, and betrays no secrets and violates no rules, one's employer has no right to complain. An employer has no right to convert his employés who are human beings into automatons or into cats and dogs.

DAILY HITAVADI Feb. 12th, 1906.

"Loyalty to the King and loyalty to officials".

44. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 12th February writes as follows:—

As a representative of the sovereign, the Lieutenant-Governor of the new province has set himself head and heart to the work of extracting loyalty to himself from its inhabitants. His discourtesy has displeased everybody. But still he is a representative of the Sovereign. A representative of the Sovereign is called a "Viceroy". Only one Viceroy rules India at a time. But as a matter of fact every police and executive officer in the country considers himself a Viceroy, or how is it that some of the Magistrates in the new province dare oppress the people? Why are official mandates issued to the people to respect even such persons as they cannot respect? It is kindness and not brute force or oppression through the instrumentality of law that can draw respect from a people. The new Lieutenant-Governor of the new province is beside himself with rage for not having received princely honours from the people within his jurisdiction. In his rage he is sometimes announcing himself as a second edition of Shaesta Khan, sometimes calling the Musalmans his favoured and the Hindus his disfavoured wife, and sometimes threatening both with *talak* (divorce). But His Honour does not understand that the fault is his from the beginning. It is only five months that he has become a Lieutenant-Governor, and he is sure to continue in this high office for four and-a-half years more whether the partition is rescinded or not. He could therefore have waited a year or two before seeking honour and respect from the people, and in that case he would surely have received them. But instead of doing that he showed the greatest indifference to the people's sorrows and griefs by demanding a show of a loyalty from them at a time when their hearts were full of grief owing to the partition of their mother-

country. At present the officials are everywhere engaged in oppressing the people in connexion with the *Swadeshi* movement. Even in Calcutta some police-officers have begun to oppress school-boys. People oppressed in this manner are not getting justice in law-courts. Do the officials expect that after all this people will entertain the same amount of respect as they did before? Everyone now understands that officials are but servants of the King and not Kings themselves, and that they are paid not by the King but by the people. They are consequently paid-servants of the people, and their conduct towards the latter should, therefore, be like that of servants. A servant seeking honour and respect from his master deserves nothing but ridicule and reprimand.

SANDHYA. Feb. 14th, 1906.

45. The *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 14th February writes:—

Land acquisition at Dacca.

To write of Lieutenant-Governor Fuller somehow makes us feel a nauseating sensation all over our body. It is not well that the mention of a Lieutenant-Governor's name should fill us with nausea,—but we cannot help it—it will come upon us. But still, in spite of the wish not to do so, we have to write of this *Assamee* (with the double sense *Assamese* and accused) Lieutenant-Governor.

He has not been satisfied with only setting the Gurkhas on the citizens. He is now about to wage war against a god. The Ramna *mat* (field) at Dacca is a well-known place, and it has situated on it a temple to the god *Bura Siva*.

A Kali's temple and a rest-house for *sannysis* have been constructed in its neighbourhood through the piety of Babu A. C. Chakravarti, who has also dedicated a piece of land hard by to the service of the god.

And Lieutenant-Governor Fuller has now his eye on this *siva aya* and *debottar* land. He wishes to turn this sacred spot into a pleasure ground for his satellites. We hear that he will forcibly take possession of this *debottar* land—but probably he will not dare to demolish the temple of the *Bura Siva*. But one cannot be sure even of that—such a rash and head-strong Lieutenant-Governor is capable of everything. If the temple is not demolished, it will be so hedged in on all sides that the performance of worship in it will become difficult.

The Hindu inhabitants of Dacca have protested against this unorthodox conduct of the Lieutenant-Governor's! All who hear of this act against *Siva* is crying shame. If Lieutenant-Governor Fuller takes forcible possession of this *debottar* land and puts obstacles in the way of worship being paid to this *Siva*, then we shall know that the cup of his iniquity is full and is about to overflow.

We hate to make petition and representation to *feringis*, and specially to this son of Shaista Khan. Are there no men at Dacca to make a stand against this unorthodox conduct? Some might point out that we cannot surely fight the *feringhis*. But it is not a question of fighting. Let the Dacca people declare that if their god is humiliated, no Hindu will join Sir B. Fuller's Council, nor welcome him anywhere, nor attend his parties. Here is another grand opportunity come. Why should not the flame which has been quenched by the action of the native leaders in the metropolis be again lit up at Dacca? God is calling upon us in ever so many ways and we at every time are neglecting His call. Alas!

III.—LEGISLATION.

PRATINIDHI, Jan. 31st, 1906.

46. The *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 31st January writes as follows with reference to the approaching creation of a Legislative Council for Eastern Bengal and Assam:—

The Legislative Council for Eastern Bengal and Assam.

Nobody can deny that a Legislative Council is necessary for the good Government of the province. We are therefore glad that Government is preparing to constitute such a Council. Eastern Bengal cannot be governed without the help of laws as the Khasias, Garos, Nagas and Kukis are. We call on our countrymen to return the most competent, efficient and independent among them to the Council. It is our earnest request that they will not lay the axe at their own feet by refusing to take advantage of the institution of this Council. We do not think there will be any loss of self-respect if one sits as a member of the Legislative Council. The paper

then goes on to refer to the manner in which the Council is proposed to be constituted, and in this connexion suggests that while it is desirable that all sections of the citizens should be represented on it, it is not desirable that any difference based on race and religion should be recognised. Such a recognition would be completely opposed to British traditions. To give the Eastern Bengal Muhammadan Association the right to return a member of its own would only widen the gulf now existing. It may be conceded that the Musalmans form the majority of the population of the province, but could not Musalman members be returned by the District Boards, Municipalities or Zamindari Associations? Was not a Musalman gentleman twice returned to the Bengal Legislative Council by the District Boards and Municipalities in the Chittagong Division? Is not the Bihar Landholders' Association now represented on the same body by a Musalman? The Chairman of the Eastern Bengal Landholders' Association is a Musalman. The people of the country make no distinction between Hindu and Musalman, but elect the best among them. Did not Orissa, with its predominant Hindu population, twice return a Native Christian to the Bengal Legislative Council? It was not proper to have given the Eastern Bengal Musalman Association the right to elect a member of their own body to the Legislative Council. If it was thought desirable to have a preponderance of Musalman members in the Council, one or two Musalmans might have been nominated direct by Government. As it is a policy of division has been recognised and adopted, which bodes ill for the future welfare of the country.

47. Referring to the approaching creation of a Legislative Council for Eastern Bengal and Assam, the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 6th February writes that on this Council, Government will possess a majority of members of its own party; and it is doubtful if any real representative of the public will have any seat on it. Many who could not hitherto even dream of getting into a Legislative Council will not have now to remain disappointed in their hopes.

CHARU MIHIR, Feb. 6th, 1906.

The Legislative Council for Eastern Bengal and Assam.

48. The *Hitvarta* [Calcutta] of the 11th February says that Sir Bampfylde Fuller has offered a new bait to the Bengalis by issuing the Resolution about the constitution of a Legislative Council for the new provinces, the fate of which is still undecided. If the Bengalis of the new province accept memberships, it will be argued that the Bengalis have accepted the new arrangement. But the Bengalis are too clever to take the bait which is calculated to ruin their cause. Bravo to His Honour's clever move.

HITVARTA, Feb. 11th, 1906.

Sir Bampfylde Fuller and the Hindus of the new provinces.

V.—Prospects of the Crops and Condition of the People.

49. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 31st January writes that the condition of Murshidabad this year is most deplorable. Rice in other years used to sell at the rate of 13 or 14 seers a rupee but this year it is selling at 10 seers for the coarser kinds and at 7 or 8 seers for the finer. Potatoes, brinjals and the like are also selling at higher prices than in former years. Milk and fish have also become difficult to get. The water of the Bhagirathi is unfit to be drunk, cholera is raging in the Mufassil, and pox in the Sadar town.

MURSHIDABAD, HITAISHI, Jan. 31st, 1906.

The condition of Murshidabad.

50. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 6th February writes that the signs point to a terrible famine in Bengal this year. The outturn of the crops in the villages in the neighbourhood of Burdwan has not been a bad one, but the way in which the cultivators are parting with their stores of grain in return for ready cash, suggests that in Burdwan also famine conditions may suddenly come to prevail. The export of paddy from the district should be at once stopped.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI Feb. 6th, 1906.

The crops in Burdwan.

51. A correspondent of the *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 7th February suggests the getting up of a strong agitation in the press and on the platform, and the presenting of a monster petition to Parliament against the continued exportation of food-grains from the ports of India in view of the prevalence of famine-conditions in the country.

MURSHIDABAD HITAISHI, Feb. 7th, 1906.

A suggestion.

KHULNAVASI, Feb. 10th, 1906.

52. The *Khulnavasi* [Khulna] of the 10th February writes that the manner in which innumerable boats from different districts are taking away rice from the *abad* portion of the district suggests apprehensions of a famine in the near future. The District Magistrate may easily stop this export of rice. And if the *mahajans* and landlords collect their dues by instalments, not insisting on having the whole amount at once, the cultivators will be spared the necessity of parting even with that quantity of grain which they require for personal and family consumption.

The crops in Khulna.

DACCA PRAKAS, Feb. 11th, 1906.

53. The *Dacca Prakas* [Dacca] of the 11th February dwells on the signs of distress which are facing the people of Bengal on all sides and on the need of Government adopting measures of relief without any further delay. The paper also commends to the notice of Government the desirability of ordering the grant of the monthly allowance of Rs. 2 per head to its menial establishment, usual on such occasions.

Distress in Bengal.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

TRIPURA HITAISHI, Feb. 6th, 1906.

54. The *Tripura Hitaishi* [Comilla] of the 6th February writes as follows:—

Is loyalty possible in India?

Indians will for ever remain grateful to the English nation for the benefits which they have derived from the latter. But it must be seen whether the conduct of the present English rulers of India is calculated to arouse in the minds of the Indians feelings of love and reverence towards them. The following points should be considered in this connextion:—

(1) Where there is no faith, there can be no love. The disarmment of the Indians proves that the English do not trust them.

(2) India is governed by English officials to the exclusion of Indians. Where there is so much distinction of race and colour, there can be no room for mutual trust.

(3 The Indian people do not enjoy even a hundredth part of the liberty which the English people enjoy. This is proved by the gradual curtailment of the liberty of the Indian press and some of the recent acts of the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam.

(4) Government invariably takes the side of Englishmen in cases of quarrel between them and Indians.

It is a pity that the conduct of Englishmen towards Indians is not so generous now as it formerly used to be. The Indians are now governed by force. Is loyalty possible in this state of things?

SANDHYA, Feb. 7th, 1906.

55. The *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 7th February writes as follows:—

The *Indian Daily News* and the Rangpur special constables' case.

The *Indian Daily News* is angry with the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court because His Lordship has compelled the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam to withdraw its proceedings in the Rangpur special constables' case. The *feringis* say that when they have to rule the country it would not do for them to respect the law at every step, and that they must do what circumstances would render necessary in the interests of good government. What does a Judge sitting in a law Court in Calcutta, they ask, know of the real nature of their work in the interior of the country? The *feringi* policy regarding India is that the internal administration of the country should be left entirely in the hands of officials, and that any interference on the part of Parliament in the matter would be suicidal. This principle has been upheld by all statesmen from Gladstone downwards. It is therefore a pity that, in spite of all this, we take *feringis* to be saints and perpetually play the beggar at their door without ever trying to stand on our own legs.

HITVARTA, Feb. 11th, 1906.

56. The *Hitvarta* [Calcutta] of the 11th February contains a brief account of the last Town Hall meeting for congratulating Messrs. Morley and Elles on their appointment as Secretary and Under-Secretary of State for India.

The last Town Hall meeting.

DAILY HITAVADI, Feb. 11th, 1906.

57. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 11th February exhorts all sincere well-wishers of the English nation, with whom the permanence of the British Empire in India is a guiding principle, not to forget themselves in the pride of theid

British rule in India.

office and power. For the British Empire was established in India through the efforts of the Indians, and it is being kept clear of its foes by the arms of the Indians. And it will remain firmly rooted in the country so long as the rulers command the reverence and faith of their Indian subjects. Those who wish to govern India only by brute force, to harass the people at every step, to turn them out beggars on the streets, so to speak, may be very intelligent politicians, but their policy can certainly do nothing but harm to the permanence of British rule in India. The faith of India in the sense of justice of England has been shaken by the conduct of Messrs. Balfour and Brodrick and Lord Curzon. It is to be hoped that Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman and Mr. Morley will attempt to re-establish that almost lost faith by a policy of sympathy and encouragement of Indian aspirations.

58. The *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 14th February writes :— SANDHYA, Feb. 14th, 1906.

The question of awakening the dormant force of Hindu society.

The European's strength lies in the use of force. Europe is civilised, but the last arbiter there is still the sword. This method of arbitration has lately been brought to bear on us here in this country also. An effort is being made to repress the patriotic spirit manifested in connexion with the *Swadeshi* agitation by the free use of *lathis*.

We cannot bring ourselves even to despise those who worship the European as an incarnation of justice and sacrifice their all for the sake of their bread. And as for those who make claims on the European, pleading principles of equality, who hold meetings, make stirring speeches, and then draft petitions to the European, we regard them as objects of pity.

There is another party, very weak in numbers, who advocate the use of force to meet force. Their idea is to prepare for success if not in the near present at least in the distant future. The ideas of this party we regard as mistaken.

We are not in favour of calling up and awakening the brute strength which every society possesses, to enter on a struggle with the European. That is exactly what the European wants. He wants to harry us, to awaken us, and then to give us such a belabouring that we shall fall into our last sleep. But we are wholly averse to awaken these brutal instincts. There is a strength which may be called the collective strength of society. For thousands of years, Hindu society has been engaged in gathering strength of quite a higher sort, which permeates our life in every aspect of it, and this is the strength which Hindu society possesses but which now lies dormant that we would awaken and stimulate.

59. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 14th February writes that those for whose reception a meeting is to be held at the Grand Theatre this evening are men who, by their desire to promote the welfare of their country, may have incurred the displeasure of the officials, but whose virtues are being extolled without reservation byall persons in the country. Thousands will assemble to-day to get a sight of them, and hundreds of youths stand ready to follow in their footsteps. There are many occasions when the popular opinion does not coincide with the official in honouring or disgracing a person. There are many titled men in the country at the present time who have been honoured by Government in various ways, but they are men at the mention of whose names all members of the public, high or low, will turn up their noses. DAILY HITAVADI, Feb. 14th, 1906.

Honouring the persecuted.

From Mr. Allen's refusal to allow the Town Hall to be made use of in this connexion, one can understand how he also is a *Swadeshi*. For although he is supported by the Indians, he has not forgotten the interest of his own countrymen.

URIYA PAPERS.

60. The *Utkaldarpan* [Sambalpur] of the 29th January states that a few showers of rain fell in the last week, which swelled the river Mahanadi and made the cultivators busy in tilling their lands. The writer regards this rainfall at the end of the month of *Magh* as auspicious in so far as the prospects of the coming agricultural year are concerned. UTKALDARPAN. Jan. 29th, 1906.

The weather in Sambalpur.

MANORAMA, Jan. 29th, 1906.

The weather in Mayurbhanj.

61. The *Manorama* [Baripada] of the 29th January states that heavy showers of rain fell in Mayurbhanj last week.

SAMVAD VAHIKA, Jan. 25th, 1906.

The weather in Balasore.

62. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 25th January states that heavy showers of rain fell in Balasore for three days in the preceding week and were injurious to several standing crops in the district. The sky is cloudy and it may rain soon.

ORISSAVASI, Feb. 1st, 1906.

The weather in Calcutta.

63. The *Orissavasi* [Calcutta] of the 1st February states that the cold was mild in Calcutta in the last week, and that the sky was cloudy with a drizzling rain.

ORISSAVASI.

The weather in Cuttack.

64. The Cuttack correspondent of the same paper states that a light shower of rain fell in Cuttack last week.

UTKALDIPIKA, Feb. 3rd, 1906.

The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 3rd February states that slight rain fell in the Cuttack town, and that thick fog appeared almost every day in the last week. The fog has done great injury to the mango blossoms.

The Sankhatras correspondent of the same paper states that there were two showers of rain in that part of the Cuttack district in the last week.

GARJATBASINI. Feb. 3rd, 1906.

The weather in Barpali.

65. The Barpali correspondent of the *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 3rd February states that good showers of rain fell there in the last week, and that this being in the month of *Magh*, it augurs well for the future.

GARJATBASINI.

The weather in Puri.

66. The Puri correspondent of the same paper states that the cold disappeared from the *Basanta Panchami* day, and that seasonable spring breezes are blowing.

GARJATBASINI.

The weather in Jajpur.

67. The Jajpur correspondent of the same paper says that rain fell in that sub-division last week, that the cold has abated, and that the general health is good.

UTKALDARPAN, Jan. 29th, 1906.

Cholera in Sambalpur.

68. The *Utkaldarpan* [Sambalpur] of the 29th January states that some pilgrims returning from Prayag to Sambalpur died of cholera.

URIYA AND NAVASAMVAD, Jan. 31st, 1906.

Cholera in Puri.

69. The *Uriya and Navasambad* [Balasore] of the 31st January regrets to learn that some of the chaukidars who had been called to Puri to attend the ceremonies in connection with the visit of the Lieutenant-Governor to that town died of cholera there.

ORISSAVASI, Feb. 1st, 1906.

Rate of mortality in Calcutta.

70. The *Orissavasi* [Calcutta] of the 1st February states that the average daily mortality in Calcutta ranges from 110 to 120, to which plague contributes about 5.

ORISSAVASI.

The small-pox in Calcutta.

71. The same paper states that small-pox is raging in Calcutta, and that the Calcutta Municipality is taking preventive measures to arrest its progress.

UTKALDIPIKA. Feb. 3rd, 1906.

The small-pox in Jajpur.

72. The Jajpur correspondent of the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 3rd February states that small-pox prevails in village Arang Purusottampur, near Jajpur town, and that medical help is urgently needed there.

UTKALDARPAN. Jan. 29th, 1906.

The rising price of rice.

73. The *Utkaldarpan* [Sambalpur] of the 29th January states that the price of rice is rising day by day in that district.

The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 25th January states that the price of rice is rising in that town.

The *Orissavasi* [Calcutta] of the 1st February states that the price of rice is rising in Calcutta.

UTKALDARPAN.

Prospects of the mango crop.

74. The *Utkaldarpan* [Sambalpur] of the 29th January expects a good mango crop this year in the Sambalpur district.

UTKALDIPIKA, Feb. 3rd, 1906.

The Kendupatna correspondent of the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 3rd February states that about three-fourths of the mango blossoms were destroyed by fog, which appeared continually for several days.

The Jajpur correspondent of the same paper makes a similar statement.

UTKALDIPIKA.

The Puri pilgrim traffic.

75. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 3rd February states that about 50 thousand pilgrims belonging to the United Provinces and the Central Provinces were congregated

in the Puri town during the *Sripanchami* festival. The number of Uriya pilgrims at Chandrabhaga sea-coast in that district was also large.

76. The *Utkaldarpan* [Sambalpur] of the 29th January is dissatisfied with the resolution of the Madras Government that both Telegu and Uriya will have currency in the Government offices of the Ganjam district on the ground that the Uriya population is more than two-thirds of the whole population in that district. According to the writer, Uriya should be the Court language of Ganjam just as Uriya is the Court language of Sambalpur. The writer quotes figures from a resolution of the Government of India in support of his contention.

Uriya as the Court language of Ganjam.

UTKALDARPAN, Jan. 29th, 1906.

Adverting to the same subject the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 3rd February observes that the policy of the Government of India is to make that language, the Court language of a district, which is spoken by the majority of its inhabitants, and that it is a matter of great regret that the Government of Madras has not as yet given effect to that policy in Ganjam. At any rate the dissatisfaction of the Ganjam Uriyas should now engage the attention of that Government.

UTKALDIPIKA, Feb. 3rd, 1906.

77. The *Utkaldarpan* [Sambalpur] of the 29th January takes good care to warn the Uriyas that they must not join the Bengalis in their agitation against the partition of Bengal, which is now an accomplished fact, for their so-called *Swadesi-ism* betrays a spirit of revenge that is distasteful to the authorities. Besides, the attitude of the powerful and influential Indian races towards the Uriyas in and out of the Congress is indifferent and unsympathetic. The Uriyas should therefore keep themselves aloof from the deliberations of that august body.

The attitude of the powerful Indian races towards the Uriyas.

UTKALDARPAN, Jan. 29th, 1906.

78. The same paper regrets that a post of Rs. 30 per month having fallen vacant in a Government office in Sambalpur, it was given to a Bengali, though Uriya candidates were available. This should not have been the case. The writer observes that some of the educated Uriyas, belonging to Sambalpur, should be made Sub-Deputy Collectors and Deputy Collectors under the nomination system that is in force.

The claims of the educated Uriyas in Sambalpur.

UTKALDARPAN,

79. Adverting to the recent promotions of the primary teachers in Sambalpur, a correspondent oi the same paper observes that the claims of the Middle School teachers should not have been overlooked.

The claims of Middle School teachers in Sambalpur.

UTKALDARPAN.

80. The *Manorama* [Baripada] of the 29th January is of opinion that hardly an eight-anna crop has been reaped by the agriculturists in the Tributary States of Orissa in the current agricultural year, and that their condition is therefore far from satisfactory.

The condition of the agriculturists in the Orissa Garjats.

MANORAMA, Jan. 29th, 1906.

81. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 31st January requests the Inspector of Schools, Orissa Division, and the District Boards in Orissa to appoint some domiciled Bengalis to the posts of Deputy Inspector of Schools, and gives the names of some of the educated members of that community, who are competent to discharge the duties appertaining to that post.

The claims of the Bengalis domiciled in Orissa.

URIYA AND NAVASAMVAD, Jan. 31st, 1906.

82. In an article on the economical condition of Orissa, the same paper points out that taxation in Orissa is increasing out of proportion to the income of its inhabitants, and that they are therefore becoming poorer day by day. Their staying power is so weak that any of the slightest visitations of Providence will ruin them for ever.

The growing poverty of Orissa.

URIYA AND NAVASAMVAD.

83. The same paper states that the residents of Puri are against the proposal of transferring their Higher English school house to some other place in the town. They were going to bring the matter to the notice of the Lieutenant-Governor on His Honour's recent visit to that town, but the District Magistrate of that district promised to pay attention to their complaint.

The complaint of the residents of the Puri town.

URIYA AND NAVASAMVAD.

Uriya and Navasamvad. Jan. 31st, 1906.

The Lieutenant-Governor's visit to Orissa.

84. The same paper, as also its contemporaries of the *Samvad Vahika* and the *Utkaldipika*, give an account of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor's visit to Orissa, and observes that all the set ceremonies in connection therewith passed off quietly and successfully to the satisfaction of every party.

Samvad Vahika, Feb. 1st, 1906.

Distress in Balasore.

85. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 1st February is sorry to learn that signs of distress are already visible in the Bhadrak Subdivision of the Balasore district, and that the day labourers are to prove the first victims of the impending scarcity of food. The District Magistrate has therefore started relief works in Agarpara in that Subdivision on a small scale by giving orders for the excavation of two tanks in that part of the Subdivision. The Government, the District Board and Babu Radha Charan Das will finance the undertaking.

Orissavasi, Feb. 1st, 1906.

Results of the last B. L. Examination as shown by the Ravenshaw College, Cuttack.

86. The *Orissavasi* [Calcutta] of the 1st February, as also its contemporary of the *Utkaldipika*, observes that the complete failure of the Ravenshaw College to pass its students in the last B. L. Examination of the Calcutta University is a matter of great regret, and is to be attributed partly to the neglect of the candidates and the teaching staff and partly to the stiffness of the questions set in the examination.

Orissavasi.

The rumoured amalgamation of Bihar, Chota Nagpur and Orissa.

87. The *Orissavasi* [Calcutta] of the 1st February has reason to believe that the recent tour of the Viceroy and the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal through Bihar is connected in some way or other with the problem of partition, which is said to be entering into a new phase. The rumour is afloat that the Bengali-speaking race will be put under one Administration, while the Biharis, Chota Nagpuris and the Uriyas will be merged together under one common Provincial Government. The writer says that the news is very bad for the Uriyas, who will have to proceed either to Ranchi or Bankipur to transact their business. The writer makes the humorous remark that the Bengalis succeed, because they show a bold front and make a loud noise, while the Uriyas suffer, because they meekly submit to the orders of Government and prove loyal to the best of their ability.

Garjatbasini, Feb. 3rd, 1906.

Discovery of porcelain in Bamra.

88. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 3rd February is jubilant over the discovery of a particular kind of earth resembling porcelain in the Bamra State by the Raja of that place, who by the help of Calcutta experts has succeeded in manufacturing wares of various sorts. The writer hopes that this may open out a prosperous future for the people of Bamra.

Garjatbasini.

The cultivation of potato in Talcher.

89. The same paper is glad that Mr. Hemanta Kumar Ghosh of the Talcher Education Department has so far succeeded in growing potato in that State as to induce the agriculturists of that State to adopt the cultivation of that vegetable on an extensive scale. Verily this may increase the staying power of the Talcher people in seasons of distress.

Utkaldipika, Feb. 3rd, 1906.

Trees on the Machhgan road need lopping off.

90. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 3rd February suggests that the District Board of Cuttack should order the District Engineer to cut down the branches of trees along the Machhgan road in that district, as the branches have spread over the cultivable lands near the roadside belonging to the neighbouring tenants, who cannot grow crops thereon on account of the shadows of those trees.

Utkaldipika.

A theft case in Sonepur.

91. The same paper regrets to learn that boxes, papers, cash and other articles were stolen from Mr. Duke's tent at Sonepur on the night of the 21st ultimo, though the tent was guarded by one constable belonging to the Garjat Police and two constables belonging to the Sonepur Police. It appears that the guard neglected his duty, and that the constables were not picked men.

Utkaldipika,

Government of India and the Calcutta *Statesman*.

92. Referring to the punishment, which the Government of India inflicted on the editor of the Calcutta *Statesman*, the same paper observes that the confidential correspondence, whose publication led to the afore

said procedure, was published in other journals, and that it was uncharitable to hold only the *Statesman* responsible. At any rate, it was not magnanimous on the part of a powerful Government like the Government of India to come down on a daily whose object was simply to serve the public.

Assam Papers.

93. The *Paridarsak* [Sylhet] of the 7th February writes :— PARIDARSAK, Feb. 7th, 1906.

Government and the *Swadeshi* movement.

The Bengalis have always been distinguished as a loyal people. If the rulers forbid us to utter *Bande Mataram*, why should we, in that case, behave disagreeably towards them by uttering those words? This is what is actually happening—these sounds are no longer uttered from our throats. For the satisfaction of the rulers, the loyal and inoffensive subjects no longer utter publicly the words so dear to them but find happiness in repeating them in the privacy of their own hearts. They look for some reward from Government for this patience and self-sacrifice. On different occasions Government have counselled and held out hopes of an improvement of the indigenous industries. It is the fulfilment of these hopes that the Bengalis now look forward to. We trust a benevolent Government will not disappoint these hopes. The germs of these hopes have been sown by the action of the Lieutenant-Governor of Assam and Eastern Bengal in assigning two scholarships for the benefit of such students in Sylhet as may desire to learn cloth-weaving. But two such scholarships for a district like Sylhet are not enough. For the present it is desirable that there should be two such scholarships for each Subdivision at least.

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,

Bengali Translator.

Bengali Translator's Office,
The 17th February 1906.

B. S. Press—32816— —20-2-1906—J. S.

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REPORT (PART II)

ON

NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending Saturday, 17th February 1906.

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CONFIDENTIAL

I.—Foreign Politics.

147. The *Bengalee* writes that the Tibetan question has entered upon a new phase which threatens to completely obliterate the achievements of Lord Curzon in the land of the Lamas. China has already plainly hinted that henceforth Tibet will be ruled by her as one of her dependencies, and if she gains her point, then Tibet will not be within the sphere of British influence. Nor is this all. Chinese officials are reported to be urging their Government to "punish the Tashi Lama and deprive him of rank" for the atrocious crime of "visiting India." It is quite possible that Russia is pulling the strings and attempting by a series of cautious "feelers," to reopen the Tibetan question.

The Tibetan imbroglio.

Bengalee, 3rd Feb. 1906.

II.—Home Administration.

(*a*)—*Police*

148. With reference to the recent assault committed by the police opposite the Lall Bazar thana, the *Bengalee* publishes the following facts as narrated by eye-witnesses. A number of young men were passing along Bowbazar Street singing hymns. They were being followed by the police, and as soon as they arrived opposite the police-station several constables rushed out with *lathies*, and assaulted them, also boarding tram-cars and beating the passengers. One of the victims was rendered insensible and had to be carried to hospital. For some unaccountable reason, the gas lamps in this portion of the street were not lighted, and in the darkness people returning from business were probably beaten also. An Inspector at the thana being interviewed by a representative of the journal, denied all knowledge of the affray. The *Bengalee* appeals to the Lieutenant-Governor to appoint a commission 'consisting of at least some unofficial gentlemen, to hold a fair, free, and full inquiry into the matter, as nothing short of a sifting investigation will satisfy the public,' who are not going to take the outrage lying down.

Alleged cowardly assault by the police.

Bengalee, 2nd Feb. 1906.

149. Continuing, the *Bengalee* writes that the entire community are anxiously waiting to see what action His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor takes in this matter. Nothing short of the appointment of an independent commission will meet the requirements of the case. If, however, the Lieutenant-Governor takes no action, it would amount to a direct incitement to the people to take the law into their own hands. In a matter like this, the people expect the Government to take the initiative, and the journal once more appeals to Sir Andrew Fraser to rise to the occasion.

Ibid.

Bengalee, 3rd Feb. 1906.

150. *New India* wonders at the apparent indifference of the Commissioner of Police to the 'organised' assault committed on a number of students and others who were passing along Bowbazar Street while returning from the Town Hall meeting. The popular version is that as the crowd was passing the Bowbazar thana, constables in undress, led by a number of Europeans apparently coming from the Lall Bazar thana, attacked the crowd from the rear, while another force, apparently from the Bowbazar thana, met the crowd and brutally assaulted the helpless people with their belts and sticks That an assault was committed the Commissioner of Police does not deny, but he declares that it was due to the students upsetting a *ticca* ghary occupied by some Europeans and that his men had nothing to do with the affair. If this is true, how is it that a serious *mêlée* could take place in the immediate vicinity of two police-stations without a single arrest being made? Gullible as the Indian public are, they must have stronger proofs before they can believe such 'incredible stuff.' Nothing short of a public and independent inquiry will satisfy the people, and if the authorities really care for the peace of the metropolis and the safety of peaceful citizens, they must evince a greater solicitude to find out the truth and punish the offenders. 'Hooliganism, like the measles or the whooping cough, is dreadfully contagious; and once it gets into people's head that it is possible to put out the gas in the public streets

Ibid.

New India, 10th Feb. 1906.

and assault wayfarers in the dark with impunity, it will not only be impossible for the public, but may be so even for the police who are not much loved or liked by the Hooligans and *goondas* anywhere, to do their work out of doors with the present assurance of peace and safety. The Commissioner of Police has got, no doubt, the military at his back to protect the peace of the city, if it is seriously threatened, but to establish military rule in Calcutta would mean the wreck of British prestige; and when British prestige is gone, the British rule will be very different from what it has hitherto been in India. It is bad policy, positively suicidal, to risk British prestige for stopping an innocent national cry, or punishing noisy schoolboys. That any attempt should be made in this direction shows an advancing nervousness in the British Bureaucracy, which no one interested in the peace of the Indian people or the perpetuation of the British Empire, can view without the deepest concern.'

BENGALEE, 15th Feb. 1906.

The Hooghly College *fracas*.

151. The *Bengalee* refers to a *fracas* which took place on the 10th instant, in connection with the athletic sports of the Hooghly College, and gives the facts as related by an eye-witness. It appears that Mr. Shaw, the Principal, invited the District Superintendent of Police to be present, with a number of constables, who were posted within the rope-fencing, while a number of young men were seated outside the fencing. The position taken up by one of the constables obstructed the view of the latter, who politely asked him to move a little to the side to enable them to have a good view. The constable apparently felt insulted at being asked to move, and pushed one of the students, telling him to '*hat jao*.' The students then asked the constable to show his number, but the latter replied by making 'an uncouth gesture,' and assaulted the young man who had the temerity to wish to take his number down. He was about to renew the assault, but the intervention of the teachers prevented his doing so. The aggrieved students now complained to the District Superintendent of Police who is reported to have retorted in the following strain:—"I placed the constable there. He has every right to beat you. I know you boys are always quarrelsome. This is because you are spoilt. Had it been in England, you would have been knocked down by the baton of the police." There were numbers who witnessed the assault so that if the District Superintendent of Police had condescended to make an inquiry, it would not have taken him five minutes to ascertain what actually occurred. But 'when a police officer, like rank Thersites, opens his mastiff jaws, it would perhaps be madness to expect wit, music or oracle.' Failing to obtain any redress from the District Superintendent of Police, the student who was assaulted complained to the Principal, who flatly declined to take any action. Such unsympathetic conduct created a most painful impression, and the competitors withdrew in a body and refused to return until the police, from the District Superintendent of Police downwards, were removed from the field. The Principal had to climb down and the police were ordered to leave the grounds. He has no one but himself to thank for his humiliation, and it is hoped that the moral of this incident will not be altogether lost upon him.

BENGALEE, 16th Feb. 1906.

Alleged outrage by the Bonaripara Police.

152. The *Bengalee* after having made 'some inquiries,' publishes a detailed account, said to have been received from a 'reliable source,' of a 'shocking attempt' made by a constable of the punitive police quartered at Bonaripara (district Backergunge) to outrage the modesty of a Hindu woman. The account, it says, is so full of circumstantial details that it almost compels reluctant belief. The facts, briefly, are that, at midnight on Saturday last, the constable, with two local Muhammadans, went to the house of one Ram Charan Jogi, broke open the door, and entered; their first act being to tie Ram Charan's hands in order to deprive him of the power of resistance. The two Muhammadans guarded him, while the constable 'entered the inner apartments and caught hold of the hand of Ram Charan's sister-in-law,' whose daughter ran out of the house and set up a cry. This brought the neighbours and the village *panchayat* and chaukidars to the spot. On the approach of the crowd the two Muhammadans beat a hasty retreat, 'but as soon as the constable came out to the verandah, he was arrested by a chaukidar named Haran Sil, in the presence of a large number of people.' The constable was kept under arrest, but the *panchayat* fearing that his comrades might attempt to

rescue him, ordered Ram Charan, his sister-in-law, the accused constable, and several other people to proceed to Narottampur by boat with the object of bringing the matter to the notice of the Settlement Deputy Collector there. No sooner however, had the boat passed the 'gate of Kabirajbari' than a *posse* of constables appeared and carried the constable off in triumph. Fortunately, a Deputy Magistrate of Barisal happened to be present at the Bonaripara bridge in connection with some official business, and the party in the boat accordingly appeared before him and related the whole story. Their depositions were recorded, and the Deputy Magistrate held an inquiry, in the course of which it transpired that the accused had placed his belt and uniform on the bedding of the woman. These were produced before the Deputy Magistrate, who took down the constable's number and made the articles over to the local Sub-Inspector of Police. On Monday information was lodged at the Sanpkate thana, and it is rumoured that, after due enquiry, the police are satisfied that the case is a true one.

If the above account is correct—and there is no reason to doubt its accuracy—is not the presence of the punitive police at Bonaripara a menace to the safety, security, and honour of the population? Apart from the various cases of individual oppression, the acts of the punitive police have rendered it impossible for the people to procure the bare necessaries of life at the Bonaripara bazar. The *Bengalee* again appeals to the Government of the new province 'to withdraw this force, which is not and has never been necessary. Its very presence 'is a punishment which is among the cruellest that can be inflicted in a civilised country upon a peaceful people.'

(*b*)—*Working of the Courts.*

153. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* observes that, while no less than three learned Judges of the High Court expressed the opinion that neither the "learned" Magistrate or the 'unlearned' District Superintendent of Police acted maliciously in enlisting two dozen gentlemen of Rangpur as special constables, they do not attempt an explanation of the strange conduct of these officers. What led the Rangpur authorities to adopt a measure that led the Chief Justice to comment upon its numerous illegalities? It was judicially decided that there was no apprehension of a disturbance in Rangpur to justify the appointment of special constables. Why, then, were certain men enlisted as such? Clearly, they were enlisted illegally and with a view to humiliating them in a most 'outrageous and brutal manner,' for they were required to *salam* head-constables who were not fit to be their shoe-blacks.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 6th Feb. 1906.

The Rangpur special constables' case.

154. The *Bengalee* writes that the country was deeply interested in the issues of the Rangpur special constables' case, which the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam withdrew while in its final stage. The finding in respect of such a case would have proved whether the high-handed and illegal proceedings of the authorities were based upon solid grounds, or whether they were dictated merely by the general irritation caused by the partition. Although the matter was not judicially decided, the withdrawal of the case implies that it was bad in law and that the order appointing special constables was illegal. The public interests, therefore, would have been better served if the Chief Justice made an authoritative pronouncement upon the case. Its withdrawal indicates the weakness of the Government position and the abandonment of a policy by which respectable persons are sought to be degraded for no other reason save their devotion to the *swadeshi* movement. "The repressive methods adopted by Sir Bampfylde Fuller's Government have all been challenged. One by one they are being tested and found wanting. The Gurkhas have been withdrawn, the lawlessness of the Military Police at Serajgunge is at an end, and the policy of appointing special constables has collapsed. The legitimate climax would be the reversal or modification of the policy of partition, which lies at the root of the discontent and unrest which prevails throughout Bengal."

BENGALEE, 6th Feb. 1906.

Ibid.

155. Reverting to this case, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* deeply regrets the attitude of the Chief Justice, who sought to appease the people by animadverting on certain acts of executive high-handedness and at the same time to please the Government by

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 13th Feb. 1906.

Ibid.

helping it out of an inextricable position. It is abundantly clear that 24 leading men of Rangpur were enrolled as special constables, not with a view to helping the regular police to avert an apprehended riot, but to prevent boys from shouting *Bande Mataram* and the people from developing their indigenous industries. This practically was Mr. Justice Stephen's finding which was supported by the Chief Justice's remarks on the case. Yet a formal judgment condemning the conduct of those officers who had abused their authority in this outrageous manner was not delivered, although a judicial decision as regards the enrolment of special constables was urgently needed in the interests of good government. The Chief Justice has been led to display his 'old love for the executive,' with the result that the confidence of the people in the administration of justice has been very much shaken.

HINDOO PATRIOT, 13th Feb. 1906.

The Rangpur special constables' case.

156. The *Hindoo Patriot* writes that the comments of the *Indian Daily News* relating to the desirability or otherwise of the decisions of Magistrates in regard to the preservation of the public peace being interfered with or revised by the High Court, raise a question of principle which requires careful examination. It is contended by the *Daily News* that if a Magistrate's motives are to be analysed every time he tries to do his duty, and he is told by gentlemen sitting in upholstered arm-chairs in the High Court, that he was too hasty or too nervous and had therefore acted illegally, the efficiency of the administration is at an end. The *Patriot* holds an opposite opinion, and considers that a reign of terror would be inaugurated if a Magistrate's orders were not subject to revision by a higher tribunal. In the Rolt case the *Daily News* recognised the imperative necessity of the High Court's interference in order to neutralise the effect of 'foolish orders' passed by 'raw and inexperienced Magistrates'; but the Anglo-Indian journal has taken up a different position in regard to the Rangpur special constables' case, presumably because the accused are "natives," and not Europeans.

BENGALEE, 6th Feb. 1906.

The Officiating Chief Justiceship.

157. The *Bengalee* considers that Mr. Justice Chunder Madhub Ghose, being the Senior Puisne Judge, has the strongest claims to the Officiating Chief Justiceship of Bengal during the absence of Sir Francis Maclean. Sir Romesh Chander Mitter twice officiated as Chief Justice by virtue of his seniority, and it was only in Lord Curzon's time that a departure was made from the usual practice when the present Chief went home on leave. The appointment was kept vacant because the Senior Puisne Judge happened to be a native of India. This is the kind of justice that is meted out to the "native of India." The journal hopes that this procedure will not be repeated, and that the illiberal policy of Lord Curzon will not be perpetuated.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 14th Feb. 1906.

The Criminal Bench of the High Court.

158. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* draws the attention of the Chief Justice to the fact that consternation prevails in the country owing to the way in which the present Criminal Bench of the High Court is disposing of motions. On Monday last, 12 motions came up before their Lordships, but rules were granted in only three cases, so that 75 per cent. of the appeals were rejected. The present consternation is thus well-founded, and if the reputation of the High Court is to remain unaffected, the Criminal Bench must be reconstituted.

BENGALEE, 15th Feb. 1906.

The Bhowanipur Police case

159. The *Bengalee* notes that Mr. Caspersz, District and Sessions Judge of the 24-Parganas, in deciding the appeal preferred by Babu Senath Kumar Bose against his sentence of one month's rigorous imprisonment and fine of Rs. 150, has merely reduced the fine to Rs. 100. The journal remarks that in England the accused in a case of this kind would have been discharged with a fine of 15 or 20 shillings, but in India the punishment is a fine of Rs. 100 *puls* one month's rigorous imprisonment when the accused happens to be an Indian. 'The whole country is proud of Senath Kumar—proud of his martyrdom.'

(d)—*Education.*

HINDOO PATRIOT, 15th Feb. 1906.

Public instruction in Assam.

160. In an article reviewing public instruction in Assam during 1904-05, the *Hindoo Patriot* remarks that the year under notice was characterised by a decline in the number of schools accompanied by a considerable rise in the number of students. The

journal goes on to comment on the proposal of the Director of Public Instruction to put a stop to the practice prevailing among students studying for University examinations of absenting themselves from lectures during the last three months of the session in order to 'cram' at home. This practice has been approved by the authorities of the Calcutta colleges, as it gives candidates time to digest all that they have learnt, and to prepare themselves in special subjects. The best way of discouraging 'cramming' is not by insisting upon examinations, but by modifying the existing system of prescribing the curriculum of studies and conducting examinations. Physical deterioration has resulted and cannot but result from a system of education necessitating incessant study and brain-work. Most students can seldom spare time to take any physical exercise at all. The defective character of the present system of University education is further marked by the absence of moral training.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

'A motoring Magistrate.'

161. The *Bengalee* is surprised to learn that the Commissioners of the Howrah Municipality unanimously resolved to sanction a sum of Rs. 3,000 for the purchase of a motor car, apparently for the use of the Magistrate who is Chairman of the Municipality, the latter undertaking to bear the cost of maintenance, and stipulating that in the event of his leaving Howrah, he will pay the cost of the car, less 15 per cent., if he takes it away with him. It was further stipulated that if he did not take the car, it was to be sold and the deficit, less 15 per cent., was to be paid by him. Would it not have been more dignified on the part of the Magistrate if he had paid the cost of the car out of his own pocket? The present arrangement looks very much as if the Municipality were advancing the cost of the car which will practically belong to the Magistrate. It is customary to grant horse or conveyance allowance to officers who have much outdoor work to do, but never the *cost* of a horse or conveyance. The Commissioners of the Howrah Municipality have either out of considerable love or fear reversed the usual procedure.

BENGALEE, 6th Feb. 1906.

Mr. Forrest, District Magistrate of Howrah.

162. Referring to the proposal made by Mr. Forrest, Magistrate of Howrah, that he, as Chairman of the Municipality, should be provided with a motor car to enable him to look into municipal affairs speedily and without any additional cost to himself, and to the recent resolution of the Municipal Commissioners, sanctioning this proposal, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* asks if it would not injure the prestige of the Civil Service 'if one of its members occupying the position of a District Magistrate were to plead poverty and avail himself of the charity of a Municipality maintained by poor rate-payers for the purpose of securing a motor car costing only Rs. 3,000?' Further, will not the dignity of the Magistrate himself be lowered in the estimation of the people when it is known that he is too poor to spend a paltry sum of Rs. 3,000?

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 14th Feb. 1906.

Mr. Allen and the Town Hall.

163. The *Bengalee* writes that in the application made to the Secretary to the Corporation asking for permission to hold a meeting in the Town Hall on the 14th instant, it was distinctly stated that the object of the meeting was to do honour to those who had recently suffered in the *swadeshi* cause. The permission asked for was given, but two days before the date fixed for the meeting, the sanction was revoked in a communication in which it was stated that the Chairman did not at the time clearly understand the object of the meeting and that he did not consider the Town Hall the proper place for expressing sympathy with persons who had been convicted for offences committed in connection with the boycott agitation. The *Bengalee* questions Mr. Allen's right to refuse the Town Hall, and points out that the application for sanction is purely a matter of form and has hitherto never been refused. The General Committee should take the matter up, as there is no doubt that the Chairman is labouring under a positive misconception as to his power and position in regard to the Town Hall.

BENGALEE. 13th Feb 1906.

BENGALEE, 15th Feb. 1906.

Plague and insanitary surroundings.

164. The *Bengalee* writes that the paper on the influence of sanitary surroundings upon the propagation and persistence of plague read out by Dr. Turner, Health Officer of Bombay, before the Bombay Medical and Physical Society, contains many useful hygienic instructions which the people of Calcutta would do well to observe now that the plague season is upon them. Dr. Turner enumerates various measures, some of which, however, can be carried out only by the municipal authorities, namely, drainage improvement, constant supervision of the surroundings of the people, the accurate registration of the causes of death and sickness, all of which duties are very perfunctorily performed by the Calcutta Municipality. The *Bengalee* deplores the fact that after ten years' study, medical science has made so little improvement in the successful treatment of the disease, and remarks that the only thing certain about plague is that there is nothing certain known regarding it.

BENGALEE, 15th Feb. 1906.

An insanitary *bustee*.

165. The *Bengalee* draws the attention of the Municipality to the insanitary condition of *bustee* No. 7, College Square, as it is in the immediate vicinity of some of the important schools and colleges and is directly opposite the Calcutta University Institute. The *bustee* referred to is said to be a hot-bed of infectious diseases, no less than thirty persons living there having died from plague last year.

(h)—General.

AMRTA BAZAR PATRIKA. 2nd Feb. 1906

'How far did the justification go?'

166. Referring to the declaration of the Viceroy that the repressive measures adopted in the new province were "fully justified," the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* thinks it is absurd to suppose 'that a cultured English nobleman like Lord Minto could support an exhibition of temper and a spirit of undignified vindictiveness on the part of his subordinate.' The withdrawal of the Gurkhas from Barisal after Sir B. Fuller's interview with the Viceroy showed that the latter had no sympathy with such proceedings. The inevitable inference, therefore, is that if His Excellency sought to fully justify the measures of his lieutenant in public, he had, in private, played the *rôle* of a mentor.

Repressive measures are adopted only as a means to an end, but if they fail to secure the end in view they cannot be said to be justified at all. What could have been the end which prompted Sir B. Fuller to inaugurate a radical departure from the old and tried methods of administration? Was it to force the people to congratulate their ruler, although they were mourning over the partition? Was it to reconcile them to the measure and to induce them to abandon the boycott and the *swadeshi* movement? If so, the rudeness with which the leaders were treated, the panic created by the Gurkhas, the vagaries of the judicial and executive officers, and the denial of justice have defeated the very object in view. The reply of the Lieutenant-Governor to the unhappy residents of Bonaripara makes it clear that repression has been adopted for its own sake and not as a means to an end. Sir B. Fuller has, in a measure, already admitted this. Thus the declaration of the Viceroy that the repressive measures were "fully justified" should be taken for what it is worth, as His Excellency has had little time to devote to the affairs of the new province.

BENGALEE. 2nd Feb. 1906.

Stoppage of a *Saraswati* procession at Jalpaiguri by the Deputy Commissioner of Jalpaiguri.

167. The *Bengalee* respectfully draws the attention of Lord Minto to the action of the Deputy Commissioner of Jalpaiguri in stopping a *Saraswati* procession on the plea that the boys composing it might shout *Bande Mataram*. Owing to this interference with religious custom no immersion of the image could take place. The journal warns the Magistrate that he is 'playing with fire,' and that in his zeal to suppress schoolboys, he has wounded the religious susceptibilities of the Hindu population, who are 'deeply shocked at this unheard-of departure from that attitude of strict neutrality in religious matters which has been the traditional policy of the British Government in this country.' It is hoped that the aggrieved party will follow Lord Minto's advice and seek redress in a Court of justice.

168. On the last *Durga Puja Dasami* day, writes the *Bengalee*, the Sub-Registrar of Palong was burnt in effigy owing to his hostility to the *swadeshi* movement. This officer represented the matter to the District Magistrate, alleging that the students of the Palong School were concerned in the affair. The District Magistrate accordingly directed the Head-Master to enquire into the matter and make the culprits apologise to the Sub-Registrar. After some time the Head-Master replied that a diligent enquiry had satisfied him that none of his students had taken any part in the burning of the effigy, but admitted the probability of their having joined the procession as mere spectators. At this stage the Inspector of Schools took up the inquiry and sought to discover the truth by making the students write an essay on "How I spent the vacation," thinking 'that the temptation to indulge in a little bit of descriptive writing suggested by the effigy in flames, might prove too strong for some of the students who might thoughtlessly admit the truth.' This ruse having failed, the Sub-Inspector of Madaripur was deputed to find out the names of the students who were concerned in the alleged outrage, and it is reported that he has sent up some names. The persecution of the students, however, does not end here. In November last, a conference of students was held at Madaripur. All the schools in the subdivision were invited to be represented by delegates, and the Palong school was among those that were so represented. It now appears that about a fortnight ago, the Divisional Inspector of Schools wrote to the Head-Master of the Palong School demanding to be furnished, within a week, with the names of those students who had attended the Madaripur students' conference or had taken part in the burning of the effigy, adding that if the list was not forthcoming within a week, the school would suffer in a variety of ways. Is it statesmanship—or sanity, either to persecute schoolboys in this systematic fashion?

'Insane persecution of schoolboys'

BENGALEE, 4th Feb. 1906.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

169. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* considers that the announcement that Backergunge, the district that sends about 39 lakhs of maunds of rice annually to Calcutta for export alone, is threatened with something like a famine, is no less serious than would be the announcement that Newcastle has been denuded of its coal. Famine conditions are unmistakably prevalent in East Bengal and the situation is perhaps worst in Backergunge. The outlook is rendered excessively gloomy by the fact that scarcity has occurred at a season that is usually the most prosperous in Bengal. The journal believes that this is the first time within the last century that such an appalling calamity is about to overtake the province, and attributes it to a variety of causes. Hitherto it has been the other provinces that have been visited with famine, whereas Bengal, thanks to the Permanent Settlement, has not only kept herself well above famine level, but has been in a position to render abundant help to the people of the affected areas. But now Bengal, despite her Permanent Settlement, has been reduced to the level of other provinces through the operation of the Road Cess and Public Works Cess, which taxes have been unjustifiably imposed on the people in violation of a sacred pledge. In this way Government realises more than a crore of rupees annually. Then, again, taking advantage of the remorseless sunset law, Government have succeeded in wresting a large number of estates from the zamindars and have become their sole proprietors. Add to this the unrecorded taxes imposed upon every zamindar by the tours of the district officers, the Lieutenant-Governor, and the Viceroy. The provincial ruler is fired with the ambition of establishing a college or some other institution and the landowners are called upon to contribute handsomely. Similarly, the Viceroy has his demands to make. In this connection it will be remembered how Lord Curzon 'fleeced' the zamindars of the province for 'his Memorial Hall.' These are the numerous 'unrecorded taxes,' and it has been said by no less than half-a-dozen zamindars that they amount to no less than a lakh and-a-half of rupees annually—more than a Lieutenant-Governor's pay—in the case of each zamindar. It will thus be seen that the Bengal of to-day is very different from the Bengal of three decades ago. Various other causes have also contributed to its increasing poverty.

Threatened famine in Bengal.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 16th Feb. 1906.

'There is scarcely a district which had not its flourishing industry, such as cotton or silk weaving, sugar-making, brass foundries, and so forth. The province had also an extensive internal trade which used to be carried on by boats and carts. All these have been destroyed and supplanted by foreign enterprise. Cholera and Malaria—the direct outcome of the growing poverty—as well as a pitiless police rule and a cruel system of criminal administration—have also crushed life and energy out of the people. And the inevitable result has followed—the failure of a single winter crop has brought the country to the verge of famine! What a sad commentary upon British rule in this country! We think the time has come when the rulers should give up their lethargy and take necessary steps to save people from death by starvation.'

VI.—Miscellaneous.

New India, 3rd Feb. 1906.

The situation.

170. *New India*, in a spirited article, dwells upon the altered political situation in Bengal. The *swadeshi* movement, it says, has lost much of its old fervour in consequence of the repressive measures adopted by the Government, but this waning should not fill the people with despair, as all true and organic movements are slow and frequently intermittent. Those who struggle for civic rights must be prepared for alternations of victory and defeat. Defeat is especially to be expected in the present unequal conflict. 'The Government that stands against us is strong at every point, we are weak on all. It is organised in every department, we are utterly disorganised. It is armed, we are disarmed. It has both strength and cunning on its side, we have neither. Our strength is invincible, but as yet unmanifested, and inoperative. Our only strength lies in our masses—370,000,000 souls; our highest hope lies in the justice of our cause, and the divinely-ordained destiny of our people.' In these circumstances, any conflict between the Government and the people must necessarily be intermittent but 'as we fight and fall we shall gather inevitable strength.' For these reasons the lull in the *swadeshi* agitation is welcomed, and it is explained that the present demoralisation of the people is due not to cowardice or timidity, but to the unexpected and incredible measures adopted by the Government—measures of which the 'rankest detractors' of the Government would not have thought it capable. Such repression will only serve to increase the popular bitterness which must break out some day. 'Then the fight will be neither so feeble nor so short, and the victory to whomsoever it may come, whether to the Government or to the people, will require something more substantial than speeches and circulars to reach itself (*sic*); and then neither Carlylean philosophy, with all its rude and rugged cynicism, nor the Rislean method, with all its conceit and cunning, will be of any avail. It is then that the arrant folly of both will stand revealed to all the world.' 'The *swadeshi* may show signs of waning strength. But our duty now is to foment and organise the sentiments that the Fuller policy has been creating all over the country; and to turn the apparent demoralisation of the people to an intense sense of despair, out of which sphinx-like will gradually burst forth a mighty self-consciousness and strength which shall realise the evils that the present swadeshi movement has hitherto been seeking so feebly to attain. What we need now is a vigorous propaganda and a network of powerful organisations in the country such as will work up the present discontent, and create such a force of patriotism in the people before which even the present powerful British Bureaucracy in India shall tremble, and to which it will sue for peace and help, instead of, as now, our suing for both at its feet.'

Amrita Bazar Patrika. 12th Jan. 1906.

Signs of deterioration in the British nation.

171. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says that the decline in the British army and nation, as proved by statistics, is probably due to the development of English industries at the cost of agriculture. If this is so, the destruction of Indian industries has something to do with the physical deterioration of the English. The explanation is apparent. The decay of the Indian industries has doubtless enriched the British capitalist, but it has ruined British agriculture and the peasantry of England. The *swadeshi* movement, therefore, might benefit England if it were to succeed. Mere industrial development is not a blessing. A handful of Englishmen have attained it not only at the

expense of India, but to the great detriment of the vast majority of their countrymen. Since the peasants of other European countries are more vigorous and healthy than the present-day British soldier, and since the latter is recruited from the great factory population of England, there is no doubt that industrial development is at the root of physical deterioration. "Let Englishmen at home open their eyes and see how the bureaucratic and selfish rule in India is doing incalculable harm to their country. Let them give India some sort of Home Rule, and it will not only benefit India but save England itself. For, if the fact be true that the standard height of the British soldier has been reduced from 5 feet 6 inches to 5 feet, it means a serious state of affairs for the English nation."

The *swadeshi* movement.

172. In an article devoted to *swadeshi* matters, the *Indian Mirror* affirms that the movement, which is purely a patriotic one and has spread throughout India, is not dying and will never die. It is gaining in strength every day and the recent persecutions have only served to strengthen the determination of the people to be 'thoroughgoing *swadeshists* at any cost. The incarceration of young men of respectable families has evoked universal sympathy and removed the popular dread of being sent to jail. The result is that the *swadeshi* movement is being firmly established, and when this is effected, the industrial regeneration of the country is assured.

INDIAN MIRROR, 13th Feb. 1906.

Lord George Hamilton and partition.

173. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that Lord George Hamilton's recent pronouncement on the partition of Bengal is characteristic of those officials whose moral perception has been dulled and who have been rendered 'utterly selfish' by the exercise of irresponsible power. Said His Lordship:—"Sentiment and emotion are great motive forces. We ought to pay attention to them, but we ought not to allow ourselves to be dictated to by them." It seems to be the opinion of Englishmen that they are born to rule and that the Indians must, irrespective of their own feelings, ungrudgingly and uncomplainingly obey them. There is no doubt that the partition has dealt a severe blow to the moral, mental, and material progress of the people of Bengal. If they remained under one Government they would have a common interest in all public matters, but divided, their interests would lie in different directions and in due course there would be a complete estrangement between the two sections. Moreover, what are the benefits of partition? Has the measure brought the desired relief to the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal? Of what additional work has His Honour been relieved, and what additional benefit has he conferred on reduced Bengal? 'Never was a greater fiction raised than that the Lieutenant-Governor is overwhelmed with work. And upon this fiction is based the gigantic wrong—the dismemberment of Bengal—a wrong which has driven a whole nation to the very verge of despair.'

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Violation of pledges.

174. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* considers that one of the most persistent of Indian grievances—if not *the* most persistent—is the utter disregard which present-day rulers pay to the 'sacred' promises of the late Queen-Empress. In a recent *India Gazette* notification publishing the rules for the appointment of ten Assistant Engineers by the Secretary of State, it is laid down that "every candidate must be a British subject of European descent and at the time of his birth must have been a British subject either natural born or naturalised in the United Kingdom!" 'What a travesty of sacred promises made on a solemn occasion by a Sovereign, whose wishes, especially as of a lady, should weigh with all who lay claim to loyalty or gallantry! This sort of shameless disregard of solemn assurances can have but one result—it can but teach the subject races to lose all confidence in the declarations of the rulers. And who would deny that the result concerns the latter more than it affects the former?'

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"Lord Curzon's regrets."

175. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, in an article headed "Lord Curzon's regrets," quotes some doggerel contributed by a Hindu to the *Gaelic American* of the 13th of January, and draws attention to the fact that the conductors of the journal, though Irish Americans, have an intimate knowledge of the affairs of India and deal ably with Indian questions, and are further able to print Indian articles in the Persian and Kaithi Hindi characters.

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The journal then passes on to Lord Curzon's Viceroyalty and endeavours to show how Nemesis has overtaken his Lordship for his ill-treatment of the Indians. It says that when Mr. Brodrick was heaping insult after insult on the once powerful Viceroy in the course of the army reorganisation controversy, there was not one member of the India Council who said a kind word in defence of him. How this dispute ended is known to all, and it was even said that Lord Curzon was "dismissed" by the Secretary of State, not only with the unanimous support of his own Council but also with that of the late Prime Minister. Thus, while Lord Curzon by his irresponsible despotism was making three hundred millions of Indians miserable, he in turn was being made to suffer terribly. His sufferings must have been even more unbearable than those of his victims in India, inasmuch as his humiliation came from parties who were his own countrymen and fellow-workers, 'while the chief who used the rod' was one for whom His Lordship could not have entertained a high opinion.

Lord Curzon, in his arrogance and desire to surpass the achievements of his predecessors, did many things which none of them would ever have dreamt of doing. 'What can be a greater achievement than the destruction of the Bengali nation? What will or can proclaim the glory of England more eloquently than the disappearance of the Bengali Babus, who helped her in establishing her Empire in India? It is, however, a remarkable fact that at least three of the main authors of the partition of Bengal have already been overtaken by retributive justice. Lord Curzon is nowhere; Mr. Brodrick finds himself merged in the forty millions of England; and Mr. Risley has been sent to the Andamans.

BENGALEE 14th Feb. 1906.

An *ultra*-loyal Head-Master.

176. The *Bengalee* reproduces from the *Weekly Chronicle* a letter in which it is alleged that the Head-Master of the High School, Silchar, asked the students of the 2nd class to subscribe towards decorating the school for the forthcoming visit of the Lieutenant-Governor, as this would cause His Honour to change his bad opinion of the conduct of the students. Some of the boys are reported to have replied as follows: "We are poor and cannot pay anything," while others said: "Our conscience does not allow it. We do not like to show any form of external loyalty. Should loyalty be purchased by money?" The Head-Master is reported to have grown furious at this, and ordered the boys to leave the school. Six or seven boys out of the thirteen are said to have apologised to the Head-Master. If the above account is substantially correct, the *Bengalee* regards the conduct of the Head-Master as extremely unjustifiable. Schoolboys are persecuted and punished for attending *swadeshi* meetings, but nevertheless they are invited to pay for demonstrations in honour of the author of such persecutions. This is neither consistent nor dignified. "Is it the intention of Sir B. Fuller that schoolboys should be coerced into paying subscriptions for a demonstration which is intended for his personal glorification, so that his Chief Secretary, who improves the shining hours by acting, in addition to his office work for which he is so handsomely paid, as special correspondent to an Anglo-Indian paper of Calcutta, may be able to wire to that paper that the Lieutenant-Governor's reception at a particular place, visited by His Honour, was a most enthusiastic and successful one? Are 'successful demonstrations' to be manufactured by screwing subscriptions out of schoolboys?"

BENGALEE, 14th Feb. 1906.

The Royal visit.

177. The *Bengalee* remarks that the Royal visit has been responsible for much romancing on the part of the English Press. Sir Roper Lethbridge, in an article contributed to the *Fortnightly Review*, says that "it is probable that no Imperial Rescript that has ever been issued has given so much real and wholesome pleasure to so many millions of people as the message that announced the intended visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales to India." Who are these "millions" to which Sir Roper refers? Surely he does not require to be told that the great majority of the population of India are still in blissful ignorance of the Royal visit?

Nor can the Royal visit have brought any pleasure to the majority of the Feudatory Chiefs, as some of the States visited by the Prince are in the grip of famine and the preparations for the reception of His Royal Highness must, to a certain extent, have diverted both money and attention from the famine

problem. If there had been no Royal visit, the task of famine relief would have absorbed the undivided attention of the Chiefs and their Ministers, and perhaps many thousands would have been saved from the horrors of starvation. To those Chiefs who have no reserve fund to fall back upon, the Royal visit has proved a visitation. The greatest sufferers are the famine-stricken subjects, and it is difficult to see how they could have derived "real and wholesome pleasure" from the Royal visit.

"The moral of to-day's demonstration."

178. The *raison d'être* of to-day's demonstration, writes the *Bengalee*, is to make it clear that those who have suffered for their country's sake—they who have been sent to prison or been whipped—have not lost in the public estimation, but, on the contrary, occupy a higher place in the affections of the people. Another object is 'to declare to the world that those who have been assaulted by the representatives of law and order, but have obtained no redress, are entitled to the sympathies of their countrymen.' It is true that the object of such a demonstration cannot but offend the authorities, but this is immaterial in the present circumstances of the country, provided the methods adopted by the people are constitutional. The public, who are the 'masters of the situation,' have every right to judge and criticise the action of the authorities, and when they find that the punishments inflicted are, in some cases, undeserved and in others out of all proportion to the offences committed, there is no reason why they should not protest against them.

BENGALEE, 14th Feb. 1906.

The British policy in India.

179. The *Indian Mirror* writes that some time ago there appeared in the columns of *India* an article in defence of the Anglo-Indian Bureaucracy, in the course of which the writer made the following observations:—"The Bureaucracy may, and even do, govern badly; but in any case, their task is a fairly big, complicated and hard task, and it behoves those that aspire to take an oar to make sure that they have the strength and the skill to row." The journal takes exception to these observations and reminds the writer that before the advent of the British, India produced generals, statesmen, and legislators as good and as great as their Western contemporaries. If India is wanting in such men to-day, where is the reason to be sought but in the fact that Indians have been excluded from all power and position with the help of 'a quarter of a million of soldiers and sepoys.' This policy was laid down a century ago, and nothing short of Home Rule will destroy its evil effects.

INDIAN MIRROR, 14th Feb. 1906.

Revival of the Parliamentary Committee.

180. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* welcomes the revival of the Parliamentary Committee which was established under the auspices of Sir William Wedderburn in 1894 when the Liberals came into power, but which, unfortunately for India, disappeared with the fall of that party. The existence of such a Committee is essential, as India needs protection 'not from the greediness of England, but from the selfishness of English officials who are sent out to rule here.' The latter, who are armed with dictatorial powers 'from the crown of their heads to the soles of their feet,' are getting more and more unsympathetic, and it is necessary that the people should have some means placed at their disposal of protecting themselves. The great glory of the British Government is that its subject are free and sure of justice. This rule, however, does not hold good in India, for what one officer does, his official superior supports, and the final authority "declines to interfere." The revival, therefore, of a Parliamentary Committee brings with it a prospect of protection, and all the members of the new House who have in any way expressed sympathy with the grievances and aspirations of India will be invited to join the Committee. There will doubtless be a good many members who will not take an active part in Indian questions, but it would suffice for the present if they viewed such questions dispassionately and without prejudice and if a large number of Parliamentarians pledged themselves to consider impartially, nay sympathetically, any Indian matter that came before the House. If this were done, the false impression that India is better governed than England itself would be removed.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 15th Feb. 1906.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENL. OF POLICE, L. P.
WRITERS' BUILDINGS,
The 17th February 1906.

K. B. THOMAS,
Personal Asst. to the Inspr.-Genl. of Police, L. P.

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